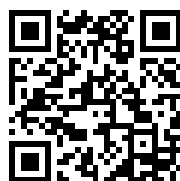

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HISTORY

OF THE

20th DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY

1914-1919.

Compiled by
CAPT. E. G. EARLE, D.S.O., R.F.A.

WOOLWICH:
PRINTED AT THE ROYAL ARTILLERY INSTITUTION,
1919.

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History

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**DEDICATED
TO THE GALLANT DEAD
OF THE
20th DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY.**

FOREWORD.

This history was written at the request of Brig.-General J. Hotham, C.B., the first C.R.A. of the 20th Division. I have been unable to obtain any records, old administrative orders, etc. of the Divisional Artillery: I have had to rely on a diary of the R.A. Headquarters for part of the period, but mainly on my private diary and my memory. Under such circumstances I am afraid that there must be inaccuracies and omissions; for these I proffer my very sincere apologies. For these reasons I have avoided any attempt at an historical work, and have tried to make it a personal record. It will, I hope, be acceptable as a war souvenir to all ranks who served in the 20th Divisional Artillery: the R.A. Charities have been promised all profits that may result from the sale of this book, so I hope that all who can will buy a copy.

London.
20/11/19.

E. G. Earle,
Captain, R.F.A.

Contents

Chapter.		Page.
I.	Genesis	1
II.	Witley and District	5
III.	Salisbury Plain	8
IV.	France	11
V.	Our first rest and introduction to Ypres ...	14
VI.	2nd visit to Ypres	19
VII.	We move to the Somme	22
VIII.	Consolidation	25
IX.	The German Retreat	27
X.	Lagnicourt	29
XI.	3rd Battle of Ypres	30
XII.	Cambrai	34
XIII.	To Ypres and back	37
XIV.	The closing stages	40

Illustrations.

	Facing page.
Brig.-Genl. J. Hotham, c.B., R.A.	1
Brig.-Genl. W. R. Browell, c.M.G., R.A.	25
Brig.-Genl. H. W. A. Christie, c.B., c.M.G., R.A. ...	32



Photo by Lafayette, London.

BRIG.-GENERAL J. HOTHAM, C.B., R.A.,
C.R.A. 20th Division, November 1914—November 1916.

CHAPTER I.

GENESIS.

THE 20th Divisional Artillery was formed at Deepcut Camp, near Frimley Green: it was a bleak and desolate spot: fir trees, heather, mud and unbeautiful government buildings go to form a far from attractive camp. I believe (in this I am relying on hearsay evidence) that the Divisional Artillery was started by two drafts (each of 2,000 men) being dumped down at Deepcut under the command of two officers (Captains Don and Findlay) who were on leave from India: I cannot be certain of the exact date of formation but it was in the last half of September 1914. These two officers had a superhuman task confronting them: they were joined shortly by other officers—Col. Harvey, Captain Watts (an Australian Garrison Gunner who came as Bde. Major) Capt. Riley and Capt. McKenna. These were all experienced soldiers.

My first view of the Divisional Artillery was in November 1914: I happened to take a convalescent drive past Deepcut: and there on the football ground by the little tin church was as motley a body of men as one could have dreamt of (after a lobster supper). Nearest the road a Bombardier in a civilian suit and bowler hat with a white stripe tacked on his sleeve, was taking a squad at footdrill. It was an awkward squad, and all classes were represented: they were trudging slowly and methodically through the mud, and one missed the terse, snappy commands of the pre-war drill instructor: this particular N.C.O. was evidently none too well up in his drill, and it was not an inspiring sight. It must be remembered that, at this time, the Divisional Artillery contained hardly any regular, serving officers or N.C.O's, and only very few re-employed officers or re-enlisted N.C.O's: in fact it was a wonder that there could be any drill at all, as the experienced officers and N.C.O's must have been very fully occupied in seeing that this horde of men was clothed, fed and paid. So if any of those first two drafts should read this book, and reflect on those uncomfortable early days of their army life, I think they will realise that the best possible was done for them.

In November Colonel John Hotham, from the retired list, arrived at Deepcut and became Brig.-General, R.A., of the 20th Division. He it was who set the 20th Divisional Artillery on its legs and made it a smart and efficient unit; by his constant efforts a nucleus of trained officers was obtained, which meant that all officers were trained in their batteries. The majority of the officers were newly commissioned, straight from businesses, universities or schools. There was a smattering of re-employed and regular officers by the end of November: the regulars were either ex-territorial adjutants, or invalided from France. Amongst the subalterns two

months service was enough to make an officer the senior subaltern in his battery. I remember that the first regular subaltern who joined (after being wounded) in 1914 was told by two other subalterns of some two months service that he'd have to go to an ammunition column as there was only room in the batteries for those who had joined first!! However everyone saw the humour of that incident so no harm was done.

I believe the Divisional Artillery consisted at first of four brigades (each of three six gun batteries). About November 1914 the establishment was altered to four four gun batteries for a brigade. When I joined in December 1914 the Divisional Artillery was made up as follows:—

- 90th Brigade, R.F.A.
- 280, 281, 282, 282A Batteries.
- 91st Brigade, R.F.A.
- 283, 284, 285, 285A Batteries.
- 92nd Brigade, R.F.A.
- 286, 287, 288, 288A Batteries.
- 93rd Brigade, R.F.A.
- 289, 290, 291, 291A Batteries."

The 90th and 92nd Brigades were commanded by Col. Balguy, and the 91st and 93rd Brigades by Col. Watkins. I can't remember all the Battery commanders, but they included Majors Fair and Buzzard and Captain Watson in the 90th Brigade, Major Butchart and Captains McKenna and Pownall in the 91st Brigade, Majors Boyd, Suther and Marshall and Captain Nanson in the 92nd Brigade, Majors McLean and Paxton, and Captains Walker and Webber in the 93rd Brigade.

I shall never forget the first time that I saw one of the batteries on parade: an old sergeant major was taking a riding drill on the drill ground behind the married quarters. The ride consisted of 30 men, a mixture of full dress blue uniforms, canvas suits and shoddy thin blue suits (provided as makeshift uniforms); thirty odd horses as new to the manège as their riders, and a medley of exercising snaffles (mostly of civilian pattern), hunting saddles, regulation bits and colonial saddles. One couldn't help wondering whether they would all ever get straightened out, but it didn't take long to find out one thing, which was the chief factor in the enormous progress that was made in six months; that thing was the immense goodwill and keenness that pervaded the minds of all that motley crew, whether ex-clerk or ex-ploughman, ex-actor or ex-miner. To give an example, I heard of a case of a party, who had been detailed to go on coal fatigue during afternoon parade, sending a deputation to the sergeant major to ask if they might do the fatigue after parade as they didn't want to miss any instruction in gunnery. Small wonder that progress was rapid with such material to work on.

Regular officers continued to arrive one at a time: they were mostly majors and captains from France who had become surplus to establishment after the big gazette of October 1914. In conversation with them after they had been training new army batteries

for a short time I found that all had got the same impression: that is why I have ventured to give my first impression of a New Army battery.

The whole problem of training was summed up briefly by an experienced officer as follows:—"It's making bricks without straw, with a vengeance,—but they'll be jolly fine bricks all the same." What added to the difficulties was the lack of N.C.O's: there was a B.S.M. and a B.Q.M.S. to each battery; they were all re-enlisted men, but few spared themselves in spite of age and physical infirmities. Nevertheless, young and experienced N.C.O's were needed very badly. A few convalescent wounded N.C.O's were sent, but there were not more than a dozen of these in the four brigades. Then one day in December 1914 or January 1915 a General (probably Sir Archibald Hunter) rode up to an officer who was instructing a squad in gun drill. The general asked several questions and finally enquired how many regular N.C.O's there were in this officer's battery. "None, Sir" was the reply. "Are there none in the other batteries?" was the next question and the reply was "Hardly any, Sir." So the weak spot was discovered and very soon remedied. Promising junior N.C.O's were sent home from France with a view to promotion in New Army batteries; some came as bombardiers and rose to B.S.M. in three months.

Now as regards equipment in these batteries. There was enough harness in each brigade for one six horse team: each brigade had two 90^m and two 15-pdr. guns, but none of these guns had any sights. Wooden sights were improvised, and battery gun drill was done with four dummy (wooden) guns. Each battery had about 30 saddles and bridles for as many horses. Saddlery and riding breeches were obtained in large quantities by advertising and by private gifts. I think this idea was originally Col. Harvey's and General Hotham pursued the same policy. No khaki clothing was available: few men had a change of under-clothing, and none had more than one uniform suit: the supply of clothing was limited, and the six divisions (9th—14th inclusive) of the First New Army had to be supplied first, as they were to go out to France first. The 20th Division was in the Second New Army, so the men had to get along as best they could with a few issue garments, eked out by presents from kind relations and benefactors. The makeshift blue uniforms were of wretched stuff, thin and very easily drenched through. Mercifully, nearly all the men could be issued with putties and boots: they all hated the blue forage caps which were issued to them. When khaki caps and cap badges were demanded we were told that such articles were unobtainable: many of the men however bought khaki caps and cap badges in Aldershot at exorbitant rates: the war profiteer was, therefore, not unknown in the district! Civilian great-coats of cheap quality were issued to the men generally, though some had the old pattern dark grey great-coat. A few of the men had bandoliers.

As far as accommodation was concerned matters were even worse. Deepcut Camp was built in peace time to accommodate two brigades (each of three six-gun batteries at peace strength)—a total of about 700 men for the whole station. This accommodation was now required to hold upwards of 3500 men. A little extra accommodation

— was provided by the old peace time married quarters, but barrack rooms intended to hold 20 men each were now accomodating 50 men. The bathing accommodation was naturally insufficient for the number of men in the station, and there could only be one result.

Scabies came, and then spotted fever; there were fortunately few cases of the latter epidemic. The old wet canteen was turned into an isolation hospital for scabies cases: the three army doctors in the station (Henry, MacMillan and Thom) laboured unceasingly, but theirs was an up-hill fight.

Ringworm started in the stables: with so few horses it was possible to isolate a few: Captain Wellum, A.V.C. and the Camberley vet., Pauer, did very useful work and got the epedemic under.

In January 1915 a certain amount of reorganization took place: the four batteries in each brigade relinquished their numbers and became A, B, C. and D batteries of their brigades (e.g. A/91, C/93, etc.) furthermore a brigade ammunition column was formed in each brigade. Major J. R. Foster, assisted by Lt. F. P. Belcher, was given the task of organizing and forming the Divisional Ammunition Column. Colonels Balguy and Watkins were appointed to command Divisional Artilleries of Reserve Territorial Divisions in the North of England; Lt.-Col. Ricardo, from the retired list, and Lt.-Colonels Anderson and Vallentin, sent home from France on promotion, came to command Brigades. The commands in the Divisional Artillery were held as follows at the end of January 1915.

C.R.A.—Brig.-Genl. J. Hotham, R.A.

Bde.-Major—Major B. A. G. Watts, Australian Artillery.

90th Bde.—Lt.-Col. H. G. Ricardo.

Adj. — Lt. M. C. Parry.	C/90—Captain Watson.
A/90—Major Fair.	D/90—Major Riddell.
B/90—Major Buzzard.	90th B.A.C.

91st Bde.—Lt.-Col. H. E. Vallentin, D.S.O.

Adj. — Lieut. C. A. West.	C/91—Captain Pownall.
A/91—Major Butchart.	D/91—Lieut. R. M. Philp.
B/91—Captain McKenna.	91st B.A.C.

92nd Bde.—Lt.-Col. H. G. Ricardo.

Adj. — Lieut. E. G. Earle.	C/92—Major P. Suther, R.G.A.
A/92—Capt. Nansen, R.G.A.	D/92—Major E. T. Marshall.
B/92—Major A. O. Boyd.	92 B.A.C.—Lieut. Brooks.

93rd Bde. Lt.-Col. A. T. Anderson.

Adj. Lt. C. H. Lloyd (succeeded in Feb. by 2nd Lt. J. R. Drayson).	C/93—Capt. Walker.
A/93—Major McLean.	D/93—Capt. Webber.
B/93—Major Paxton.	93 B.A.C.—Lieut. Hayes.

Divisional Ammunition Column.

Lt.-Col. J. R. Foster.

Adjt.—Lt. F. P. Belcher.

No. 1 Section

No. 2 Section—Captain & Qr.-Mr. W. C. Robinson.

No. 3 Section

Early in February orders came for our relief by the 13th Divisional Artillery (a unit of the First New Army). The 90th and 91st Brigade and the D.A.C. were to move to Witley Camp, which was still under construction: the 92nd and 93rd Brigades were to be billeted in Guildford and Godalming respectively. Advance parties were sent off at once to look round: when they returned every one seemed to envy the 92nd and 93rd Brigades. Witley Camp was built on the heather clad hill just outside the village of Milford, and on the main Guildford—Hindhead road. The huts were of wood with tarred felt roofs and lined with asbestos sheeting: from all accounts the huts were bitterly cold and none too dry. The stables were open at the back and none too well drained. Mr. Powley, the energetic and efficient mess caterer at Deepcut was persuaded to open a branch mess at Witley. There were no sports grounds at Witley and the only entertainments would be in Godalming (some 4 miles away). At Deepcut, various kind people had come from London and Camberley to give entertainments to the men. So altogether the lookout for the Witley contingent was a gloomy one.

Just before we left Deepcut a great event took place: twelve old 18-pdrs. from India were sent to us. Each 18-pdr. battery was given one, and the effect on the men was noticable at once, whenever there was no parade going on there was a crowd round "our battery's gun." The 90^m and 15-pdrs. counted as guns no longer, and the 92nd Brigade (which was the howitzer brigade, and so had none of these 18-pdr. weapons) felt rather mediaeval.

The move from Deepcut took place on the 18th and 19th February 1915: it was a strange move, taking place partly by road and partly by rail as we had not enough harness to move all the vehicles.

CHAPTER II.

WITLEY AND DISTRICT.

After the move harness began to arrive in small quantities, until finally there was enough for two six-horse teams in each battery: by pooling the harness in each Brigade it was possible for each battery to have one driving drill (without vehicles, but with

8 teams in harness) once a week. Lord Middleton and Lord Pirrie, who own a good deal of park land in the district each allowed one Brigade to do driving drill in their respective parks. Manèges were extemporised and riding drill progressed rapidly, with the help of N.C.O's sent back from France to help to train New Army units.

Khaki clothing began to arrive, but was very sparingly issued; the authorities insisted on the makeshift blue uniforms being thoroughly and completely worn out before they could be condemned; then and only then was khaki issued in lieu. At this stage (February, 1915) the New Army soldier in khaki was still rather a rare bird.

The Divisional Artillery was very short of fitters, wheelers, saddlers and shoeing smiths: a few fitters were sent to Woolwich for training, but the Ordnance College was fully occupied in training enough men to keep the B.E.F. up to strength; however, we did get a few men trained—the men being selected from the ex-metal workers in the Division: arrangements were made for training saddlers at one of the Technical Colleges in London (I wish I could remember which one, as we had reason to be grateful to it). Shoeing smiths were trained in the batteries—we never had much trouble in finding men who were ready to undergo training as shoeing-smiths.

At Witley Major Buzzard left us to join the staff of the 5th Division in France and Major Marshall had to go on half pay, sick. This left us short of battery commanders. Major T. W. G. Bryan (from the retired list) and Major E. M. Conolly (from the T.F.) joined us soon afterwards: They took command of 91st B.A.C. and D/91 respectively. Captain Henderson (an ex-Territorial officer) came to command No. 3 Section D.A.C., and Lt. Brooks was posted from the 92nd B.A.C. to command No. 1 Section D.A.C.: Lt. Philp from D/91 went to command the 92nd B.A.C. Lt. Elliott from B/90 was posted to command the 90th B.A.C. Several officers joined on first commissioning and a few remounts were issued, but we got very little equipment while at Witley. Our stay at Witley was notable for one event, a visit from H.M. the King. It was a comparatively informal affair: His Majesty rode through the various camps, and saw some of the troops at work on the way: the C.R.A. was commanding the Division temporarily, so Lt.-Col. Vallentin acted as C.R.A. during H.M.'s visit. The Royal party went on to Peper Harow (Lord Middleton's seat) for lunch: after lunch the King witnessed a display of driving drill by C/90 (Captain G. E. B. Watson) in Lord Middleton's park, and complimented the C.R.A. on this display. The Bde. Major had a very nasty fall as his horse, alarmed by the cheering, came over backwards on top of him: fortunately he escaped with a severe shaking.

About the middle of March orders came for us to move to Salisbury Plain, the said move to commence in April. We were given to understand that the 12th Divisional Artillery would occupy Witley Camp (which was being enlarged all the time we were there). I think the inhabitants of Guildford and Godalming were really sorry to see the last of us. Complaints against the troops were almost unknown: after leaving Deepcut, which was hardly a whirl of gaiety, some of the men must have been sorely tempted to have a

spree in Guildford or Godalming; anyway, there were very few cases of drunkenness and disorderliness. It was our first experience of billets and one could not help being struck by the very thorough and loyal help given to units by the police of the Town in which they were billeted. The police always furnished a very complete list of billets, and were always ready to give information regarding the attitude of householders to the men billeted on them. The inspector at Guildford was the Town Major par excellence!

A/93 made such a hit in Godalming that a generous lady presented them with a small travelling cooker before they left the town.

To return to the move to the Plain. The first step taken was to send down strong advance parties from each unit to erect our camp. The next step was to work out how the units were to get to the Plain: some had to march, as we had enough harness for each battery to take a gun and a G.S. wagon by road: and some had to go by train with the baggage which was not required on the road: and some had to go by lorry with the baggage which *was* required on the road. However, though it sounds very complicated, it was worked out in the end. The 18-pdr. Brigades (90, 91 and 93) were each to march with their affiliated Infantry Brigade (59, 60 and 61) starting on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd April respectively: the 92nd (Howitzer) Brigade and the D.A.C. were to march down together starting on the 4th April. The march was divided into three stages; the first stage was from the environs of Witley to Alton, here the artillery billets were bad; this was unfortunate as the first day's march was very wet and some of the men were accommodated in a large marquee on the village green: even with plenty of straw it was a poor lodging: to make matters worse the owner of the marquee (a true patriot) insisted on its being struck every morning when the outgoing troops left and on its only being pitched when the incoming troops arrived. The next stage was from Alton to Winchester. the weather changed for the better on the second day's march and the 90th Brigade were hot and dusty by the time they reached Winchester: the entries of the successive columns into Winchester were most impressive: watching the men march in, it was hard to realise that they were the same men who had trudged up and down awkwardly on the drill grounds at Deepcut; and that these well set up men in khaki were the apparently shapeless individuals of the makeshift blue uniform days: for a great event had come to pass. With the putting on of khaki for the first time they had attained more pride of themselves: while they had worn their blue uniforms, they were full of keenness, but self-confidence was lacking, their khaki changed this state of affairs at a blow.

The billets at Winchester were quite good, the police having done their level best for us: from Winchester a day's march took the artillery to the area of Nether Wallop: there was only a solitary policeman for the three villages of Upper, Middle and Nether Wallop, but he rose to the occasion nobly. The last stage was from Wallop to the "Australian lines" at Rolleston. There were no stables here, the horses all being picketted in the open: the men were all in tents: the officers were in Aylwin huts (made of canvas, with talc windows and corrugated iron roofs) the mess was in a

large marquee, which was very cold and very uncomfortable: I think those officers who had been in the Deepcut mess all wished that Mr. Powley was attached to the Divisional Artillery in the post of Mess Caterer.

CHAPTER III.

SALISBURY PLAIN.

Salisbury Plain is well known as a training ground, so it seems unnecessary to describe the country round our camp. It suffices to say that batteries could drill within 100 yards of the camp, and it was not necessary to obtain permission from anyone to use land for drilling on—as we had to do at Witley.

By this time (April) the first New Army (9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th Divisions) were concentrated round Aldershot under the Aldershot Command; similarly the 2nd New Army (15th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, and 37th Divisions) were concentrated on Salisbury Plain under the Salisbury Training Centre. The 37th Division was made up of surplus battalions from the 1st and 2nd New Army Divisions: the 20th Division provided the 9th Devons for the 37th Division. Now that we had joined the 2nd New Army on the Plain we started to complete in animals and equipment. I think I am right in saying that we received drafts totalling 700 horses during our first fortnight on the plain. All but one of these drafts were good and came from Falmouth: one draft came from another dépôt and was bad. After the first drafts of horses, we started to receive mules as well: these were all sent to the D.A.C., who came in for a good deal of goodnatured chaff when the first draft of "mokes" arrived.

We were still short of harness, guns and wagons when General Murray came down from the War Office to inspect us in May: he was evidently favourably impressed, as orders came that night from the War Office for the Divisional Artillery to be completed in harness from Tidworth Ordnance Dépôt during the two following days. Tidworth is about 10 miles from Rollestone and wagons had to be sent in to draw the harness: as the harness had to be checked at Tidworth on drawing, it can be realised that it was a tall order to complete us in harness in so short a time. We were fortunate in obtaining a vast amount of help from Major Baker, the D.A.D.O.S. of the Division.

Guns and wagons then began to arrive rapidly, and I expect D.A.D.O.S. still remembers the famous occasion on which an 18-pr. limber was lost on its way to us: in spite of repeated countings of the limbers (a pleasant job on a wet Sunday morning) and checking

of the carriage numbers, it proved almost impossible to convince the consignors that the said limber had not arrived at its rightful destination. No doubt a railway employee removed it from its truck and took it home as a souvenir! We were very soon completed with 18-pdrs., but the 4.5 Howitzers arrived much more slowly: guns and howitzers were grouped by batteries according to the gun factory which made them, and the date of manufacture. We were terribly short of gun stores (sights, clinometers, spare parts, etc.) and, in fact, were still short when we left for France. The howitzer batteries were envied by the gun batteries, for the former had No. 7 Dial Sights while the latter had to be content with the old No. 1 Dial Sight, fitted up with a mirror to make back-laying possible. (The word possible is used advisedly, as it proved very hard to train layers with this mirror sight). Further each battery had one No. 1 Director and one No. 3 Director, instead of two No. 3 Directors. This was not a very serious matter under trench warfare conditions.

To return to the question of sights, it is worthy of note that the C.R.A. made periodical demands for No. 7 Dial Sights, but his efforts were not crowned with success until July or August 1916, when they were issued to all batteries.

Towards the end of May the Divisional Artillery began to move into the "Canadian Camps" at Larkhill: here there were horse-lines, open at the back: the men were in huts: there were shower baths in the camps, and institutes and cinemas were within easy reach: the officers were in wood hut quarters and messes—the latter a happy deliverance from the windy marquee at Rolleston. About the same time a few changes took place in the Divisional Artillery. Major McLean was transferred to the 9th Divisional Artillery: Colonel Pollock, Majors Newland, Rich and Holland joined and were posted to command 90th Bde, D/92, B/90 and A/93 respectively: Lieut. Balfour (a wounded regular) and Lieut. Wright (a riding master who had obtained permission to come out with us as a combatant officer) also joined at Larkhill.

Numerous inspections took place and all went off with credit to the Divisional Artillery: General Coke came to make casting inspections twice, and Major General Birkbeck brought Lord Lonsdale down to see the horses. The latter stated that our horses were the best he had seen in England.

Finally, in June, General Drake saw the batteries at practice: he expressed his pleasure at the high standard shown in the firing. The only disaster at practice was the impromptu cavalry target provided by the horses of a certain range party, whereof the horse holder went to sleep and allowed his charges to bolt. However the firing was stopped and neither man nor beast suffered (bodily) harm.

After practice the time was taken up in completing batteries in clothing and equipment, getting rid of the surplus men, despatching the base details to our dépôt at Edinburgh and putting the last finishing touches to the training. The final ceremony was the inspection of the Division by His Majesty the King: the rehearsal went off well except that one young officer wounded his horse with his sword and galloped past by himself; the Divisional Artillery marching past in column of batteries: on the morning of the inspec-

tion itself we were told that we must march past in column of brigades, close interval. The warning would have been rather late for fully trained batteries, with long service drivers: no damage resulted, though one man was jumped off a limber, as brigades had to trot after passing H.M. the King.

This inspection produced an amusing occurrence: H.M. told the C.R.A. that he was much impressed with the Divisional Artillery, but that he had heard that we had lost 30 mules recently by sending them out grazing unhobbled: the C.R.A. replied that H.M. had not heard the complete story—for search parties had been sent out all over the plain and had returned with 50 mules! H.M. was much amused, they say.

The troops on parade were:—

Major-General Davies, C.B. and Staff.

Royal Artillery.

Brig.-General J. Hotham, G.O.C., R.A. and Staff.

90th Brigade R.F.A. under Col. E. Pollock.

91st Brigade R.F.A. under Lt.-Col. H. E. Vallentin, D.S.O.

92nd Brigade R.F.A. under Lt.-Col. H. G. Ricardo.

93rd Brigade R.F.A. under Lt.-Col. A. T. Anderson.

20th D.A.C. under Lt.-Col. J. R. Foster.

Yeomanry.

1 Squadron Westmorland and Cumberland Yeomanry (Lt.-Col. Beddington.)

Royal Engineers.

Colonel Kenyon, C.R.E. and Staff.

83rd, 84th and 96th Field Companies R.E.

20th Divisional Signal Company R.E. (Captain Stratton.)

Cyclists.

20th Divisional Cyclist Company (Captain Johns.)

Infantry.

59th Infantry Brigade. Brig.-Genl. C. D. Shute and Staff.

10th and 11th K.R.R.C., 10th and 11th Rifle Brigade.

60th Infantry Brigade. Brig.-Genl. Roy and Staff.

12th K.R.R.C., 12th Rifle Brigade, 6th Ox and Bucks L.I.

7th King's Shropshire L.I.

61st Infantry Brigade. Brig.-Genl. Ross and Staff.

12th King's Liverpools, 7th Somerset L.I., 7th K.O.Y.L.I.,

7th D.C.L.I.

11th Pioneer Battalion, Durham L.I.

R.A.M.C.

60th, 61st, 62nd Field Ambulances.

Sanitary Section.

R.A.S.C.

158th, 159th, 160th, 161st Companies.

After the review a message was published from His Majesty, wishing the Division GodsPEED.

CHAPTER IV.

FRANCE.

The Divisional advance party left for France July 15th, 1915. I think the Division started embarking at Southampton on July 19th. On arrival in France the Division entrained for the rest area round Lumbres: units started arriving at the stations of Wizernes and Lumbres on July 22nd, and were not all in until the 26th: the artillery arrived at all hours of the day and night and it was not an easy matter to get them into billets in strange villages in the dark. Each brigade was given a plan of the village, showing the various billets: all billets had the unit to which they were allotted, and the numbers of men or horses or both that the billet could hold, chalked on the door. It was very noticeable that most of the men, rather than sleep in the barns, slept in the open air. (This, incidentally, was rather a blow to the billeting officer).

In this area the inhabitants were always convinced that there were *no* infantry in the New Army, if they happened to have New Army Artillery billeted on them. They also had a happy way of telling you that their own houses were unfit for troops, but that Monsieur so and so next door had all that was most perfect: the latter trait is not peculiar to the Lumbres area, by the way! Besides pacifying the inhabitants the billeting officer is also expected to satisfy the troops billeted: this is an impossible feat, and will remain so in all countries which have no Government Housing Scheme. A very experienced officer, who had done much billeting when an adjutant in France, put the whole thing in a nutshell: "As many friendships are broken over billeting as over bridge"!

We were not left very long in the Lumbres area: on July 28th we marched to the area Walloncappel—Lynde, where we were billeted for the night. Next day we went on to the area Strazeele—Merris—Bleu—Vertes Rues—Caudescure—Petit Sec Bois, where we came under the 3rd Corps (Lt.-Genl. Pulteney).

Shortly afterward 2nd Lieut. Walker, D/90, was transferred to the 20th Divnl. Ammn. Sub-Park, a unit we had not met previously.

Before proceeding any further with the narrative it may be of interest to give details of the 20th Divisional Artillery, as it first went into the line in France.

G.O.C. R.A.—Brig.-Genl. J. Hotham, R.A.

Bde. Major—Major B. A. G. Watts (Australian R.G.A.)

Staff Captain—Lt. E. G. Earle, D.S.O., R.F.A.

A.D.C.—Temp. Lt. E. U. O'B. Oyler.

90th Bde. R.F.A.—Colonel E. Pollock.

Adjutant—Temp. Capt. M. C. Parry.

Orderly Officer—Temp. Lieut. T. S. C. Stephenson.

A/90—Temp. Major A. E. B. Fair; 2nd Lieuts. G. Tate, Armstrong, Lt. Renny.

B/90—Capt. E. E. Rich, 2nd Lieuts. Sandeman, Poer, Faber, Reynolds.

C/90—Capt. G. E. B. Watson, 2nd Lieuts. Scudamore, Rudd, McKean.

D/90—Major J. B. Riddell, D.S.O., Lieut. Wright, 2nd Lieuts. Jones, Holles.

90th B.A.C.—Temp. Capt. A. G. Elliott, 2nd Lieuts. Walker, Butler.

91st Bde. R.F.A.—Lt.-Col. H. E. Vallentin, D.S.O.

Adjutant—Temp. Capt. C. A. West.

Orderly Officer—Temp. Lieut. W. E. Bleck.

A/91—Major J. A. Butchart, 2nd Lieuts. Tailyour, Nicol, Macdonald.

B/91—Temp. Capt. J. W. McKenna, 2nd Lieuts. Traill, Moriarty, A. W. G. Williams.

C/91—Capt. H. R. Pownall, 2nd Lieuts. Skaife, Wartnaby, D. C. Owen.

D/91—Temp. Major E. M. Conolly, 2nd Lieuts. Thomas, Hinde, Balfour.

91st B.A.C.—Major T. W. G. Bryan, Lieuts. Hill, Kick, Atkins.

92nd Bde. R.F.A.—Lieut.-Col. H. G. Ricardo.

Adjutant—Temp. Lieut. J. R. Drayson.

Orderly Officer—2nd Lieut. R. E. Boothby.

A/92—Capt. M. R. C. Nanson, 2nd Lieuts. H. Protheroe, Pickthall.

B/92—Major A. O. Boyd, 2nd Lieuts. MacQuarrie, Holland, Tatham.

C/92—Major P. Suther, 2nd Lieuts. Humphreys, Buckley, Rickards.

D/92—Major A. E. Newland, D.S.O., 2nd Lieuts. Laing, Coleman, R. Protheroe.

92nd B.A.C.—Temp. Capt. R. M. W. H. Philp, 2nd Lieut. Scott.

93rd Bde. R.F.A.—Lieut.-Col. A. T. Anderson.

Adjutant—Temp. Lieut. R. Denman.

Orderly Officer—2nd Lieut. V. R. C. Dill.

A/93—Capt. R. T. Holland, 2nd Lieuts. Elliot, Haig Scott, Gulliver.

B/93—Major H. W. Paxton, 2nd Lieuts. Woolward, Hibbert, Gibbons.

C/93—Capt. C. W. Campbell, 2nd Lieuts. Powell, Twycross, Mahony.

D/93—Major L. M. Webber, 2nd Lieuts. Codner, Ross-Brown, Grayburn.

93rd B.A.C.—Temp. Capt. E. MacA. Walker, 2nd Lieuts. Younghusband, E. L. Tate.

20th D.A.C.—Lieut.-Col. J. R. Foster.

Adjutant—Temp. Captain F. P. Belcher.

No. 1 Section—Temp. Capt. L. A. W. Brooks, Lieut. Munro, 2nd Lieut. Eppenheim.

No. 2 Section—Temp. Capt. & Qr.-Mr. W. C. Robinson,
2nd Lieuts. Bertie, Weir.

No. 3 Section—Temp. Capt. Henderson, 2nd Lieuts. Pearson,
Robertson.

For any errors and omissions I proffer my sincere apologies, but I have no nominal rolls to refer to.

In the first week in August orders were received to send a howitzer battery to make up the 27th Division. A/92 were accordingly sent off, and the Division saw them no more: I believe they fought at Loos, and went to Salonica in December 1915, remaining in that theatre of war until the Armistice.

On August 3rd the 90th Bde. went into action N.E. of Laventie, they were under the orders of C.R.A. 8th Division and covered the 19th Infantry Brigade (which belonged to no Division, but was attached to the 8th Division). After about ten days the 59th Infantry Brigade relieved the 19th Infantry Brigade in the front line between Fanquissart and Rue Tilloloy. Trench rumour hath it that one of the R.B. battalions were greeted on their arrival in the front line by the Germans whistling the R.B. march past from the German front line.

At the end of August the rest of the Division relieved part of the Meerut Division, who side-stepped to their right. On August 28th the C.R.A. took over from C.R.A. Meerut Division at Estaires; at the same time 90th Brigade came under the command of C.R.A. 20th Division.

The 20th Division were in the line as a unit at last, and the days of Deepcut and blue uniforms seemed very far away.

The sector held by the 20th Division was roughly between Neuve Chapelle and la Croix Blanche. There were no trenches in the strict sense of the word, as water is met with after digging down more than a foot in this part of the front. The line consisted of sand-bag breastworks: it was a quiet sector and there were very few casualties in the Divisional Artillery while in this part of the line (I think the total of killed, wounded and accidentally wounded was 60 between 28th August, 1915, and 14th January, 1916).

In September we learnt that a big allied offensive was to take place in the middle of the month. (the offensive was subsequently put off a week by rain—a most unfortunate occurrence). The 92nd and 93rd Brigades withdrew from their positions about the 19th Sept. and went into new battle positions a little further north, coming under the orders of C.R.A. 8th Division. The 8th Division on our left and the Meerut Division on our right were destined to deliver holding attacks in conjunction with the main attacks further south. The object of these holding attacks was apparently two-fold: firstly to draw in the German reserves, known to be stationed in Lille: secondly to outflank La Bassee from the north.

On the afternoon of September 21st the preliminary bombardment commenced: the Germans made hardly any reply with their artillery: their front was known to be lightly held and it was believed that these holding attacks might meet with considerable success.

At 4 a.m. on 25th September the holding attacks took place: before long we heard that the Meerut Division were making con-

siderable headway and inflicting heavy losses on the enemy, who had been cut off from all supplies throughout the preliminary bombardment. We also heard that the 8th Division had captured the German front line and support line, with 70 prisoners. Later came the news that Meerut Division had reached the Moulin de Pietre, capturing 170 prisoners. In the afternoon counter-attacks, delivered by the reserves from Lille, drove the 8th and Meerut Divisions back to their original front line: some of our infantry (12th R.B., I think) were cut off in attempting to form a block in the German front system to protect the left flank of the Meerut Division: the British and Indian casualties were heavy—we heard rumour that the Meerut Division had lost 5000 and the 8th Division 3000. Owing to these heavy losses there was some fear, on the evening of the 25th, that the Germans might attempt to push their counter-attacks across No Man's Land and into our front line.

In consequence the 93rd Brigade were ordered to return to our command with all speed.

C/93 Captain C. W. Campbell came back about 4 p.m. and went straight into action near La Fluique.

Lt.-Col. Vallentin, D.S.O. had to go away sick very soon afterwards and the 91st Brigade was taken over by Lt.-Col. Wilson, D.S.O. from 61st Battery R.F.A. Lieut. Bleck was invalided and 2nd Lieut. Scaife became Orderly Officer 91st Brigade.

We also lost Col. E. Pollock (90th Bde. ~~Ammn.~~ Col.) Major T. W. G. Bryan (91st Bde. Ammn. Col.) and Major Paxton (B/93) about this time.

Their places were taken by Major A. B. Forman, D.S.O. (from R.H.A.), Lieut. H. B. Buckley (from C/92) and Captain G. O. S. Smyth.

After the operations of Sept. 25th the Meerut Division on our right was withdrawn and their place was taken by the Guards Division who had been engaged at Loos.

After a short time the Guards Division side-stepped to left and relieved the 20th Division who relieved the 8th Division, the latter withdrawing into 3rd Corps Reserve. The move was completed by Nov. 28th and R.A. Headquarters moved to Sailly sur la Lys.

This proved to be a fairly peaceful sector, though the Germans indulged in rather more counter-battery shoots than they had done in the Laventie area.

CHAPTER V.

OUR FIRST REST.

AND OUR INTRODUCTION TO YPRES.

About the 14th Jan. 1916, the 8th Division relieved us and we moved back into 3rd Corps Reserve round Lynde. We found that it was as awkward for a New Army Divisional Artillery of four

brigades (each consisting of 4 four gun batteries and a B.A.C.) and a D.A.C. to relieve an old Army D.A. of four brigades (each consisting of 3 six gun batteries and a B.A.C.) and a D.A.C. in rest billets as it was in the line.

The units were now commanded as follows :—

90th Bde.—Lt.-Col. A. B. Forman, D.S.O.

Adjutant—Temp. Capt. M. C. Parry.

Orderly Officer—Temp. Lieut. Butler.

A/90—Major A. E. B. Fair.

B/90—Major E. E. Rich.

C/90—Capt. G. E. B. Watson.

D/90—Major J. B. Riddell, D.S.O.

90 B.A.C.—Temp. Capt. K. H. C. Tailyour.

91st Bde.—Lt.-Col. F. A. Wilson, D.S.O.

Adjutant—Capt. C. A. West.

Orderly Officer—2nd Lieut. W. F. Scaife.

A/91—Major J. A. Butchart.

B/91—Temp. Capt. J. W. McKenna.

C/91—Capt. H. R. Pownall.

D/91—Temp. Major E. M. Conolly.

91 B.A.C.—Temp. Capt. H. B. Buckley.

92nd Bde.—Lt.-Col. H. G. Ricardo.

Adjutant—Temp. Lieut. J. R. Drayson.

Orderly Officer—2nd Lieut. A. W. Bertie.

B/92—Capt. A. G. Cunningham.

C/92—Temp. Capt. R. M. W. H. Philp.

D/92—Major A. E. Newland, D.S.O.

92nd B.A.C.—Temp. Capt. R. Wright.

93rd Bde.—Lt.-Col. A. T. Anderson.

Adjutant—Temp. Capt. R. Denman.

Orderly Officer—Temp. Lieut. H. Hibbert.

A/93—Major R. T. Holland.

B/93—Temp. Lieut. A. T. Woolward.

C/93—Temp. Capt. A. G. Elliott.

D/93—Temp. Major L. M. Webber.

93 B.A.C.—Temp. Capt. E. MacA. Walker.

D.A.C.—Lt.-Col. J. R. Foster.

Adjutant—Capt. F. P. Belcher.

No. 1 Secn :—Temp. Capt. T. A. Codner.

No. 2 Secn :—Temp. Capt. R. G. Staveley Dale.

No. 3 Secn :—Temp. Capt. W. Laing.

With regard to the changes shown by the above list Lieut. Tailyour came from A/91 to replace Capt. Elliott who went to C/93 : Capt Cunningham came from 8th Division to replace Major Boyd posted to command O Battery, R.H.A.

Capt. Philp came from command of 92nd B.A.C. to replace Major Suther who had returned to R.G.A. at his own request. Lieut.

Wright came from D/90 to take Captain Philp's place. Lieut. Woolward was commanding B/93 temporarily Capt. Smyth having been wounded at Fleurbaix. Capt. Elliott had taken the place of Captain Campbell, whose old wounds had caused his return to England.

Lieut. Codner from D/93 replaced Capt. Brooks, invalided. Lieut. Staveley Dale had replaced Capt. Robinson, also invalided.

Lieut. Laing from C/92 had replaced Capt. Henderson. We spent about a week in the Lynde area. On Jan. 22nd we left the 3rd Corps to go further north to join the 6th Corps.

From Lynde we moved in a day's march to the area between Arneke and Bavinchove, where we were in billets once more, this time close to Cassel.

After about a week in this area (Feb. 2nd) the Division was inspected by General Plumer commanding the 2nd Army; he expressed his gratification at the turn out of the Division to General Davies, saying "If these men fight as well as they turn out on parade there will be nothing to complain of."

On Jan. 28th we learnt that we were not to join the 6th Corps, but were to form part of the newly formed 14th Corps under Lt.-General Lord Cavan.

We heard that the other Divisions in the Corps would be the Guards Division and the 6th Division and that we would hold the extreme left of the British line just south of Boesinghe. Major Riddell, D.S.O. left the Division on appointment as S.O.R.A. 2nd Army; his place was taken by Capt. Bayne-Jardine, M.C. from Lahore Divisional Artillery.

The first step was to move into the 14th Corps rest area between Rubrouck and Zeggars Cappel, which took place on Feb. 4th. After arriving here parties consisting of one officer per Battery went up in motor buses to the Batteries of the 14th Division (which the 20th Division was to relieve). Stayed for three days to look round.

On the night of 12/13 February the Germans attacked during the relief of a battalion of the 6th Division by the 12th R.B.

The 12th R.B. counter-attacked and restored the line.

Genl. Plumer wired "congratulations to Infantry and R.A. of 20th Division on fine work on night of 12/13 Feb. under circumstances which might well have been strange to them."

By the 13th Feb. the relief had taken place and the C.R.A. took over from the C.R.A. 14th Division.

Hardly had our infantry taken over when the Germans captured about 500 yards of our front line on the canal; these trenches were worthless and no attempt was made to recapture them.

The front over which the Division extended was very different to the Laventie sector. At Ypres the trenches were not continuous, there were hardly any communication trenches and few of the O.P.'s could be reached in daylight.

The Germans overlooked everything from the Pilkem Ridge and could see nearly all the battery flashes.

Nevertheless a policy of vigorous retaliation was pursued by the artillery: the gun positions were strong, a fact which kept down

the casualties to some extent, but we began to lose more men by shell fire every three weeks, than we had done at Laventie in three months.

Before we had been very long in the line Major Webber of D/93 was wounded. His place was taken by Capt. Spencer Phillips from the Guards Division; Captain Kynvett came from England to command B/93. On top of these changes Lt.-Col. A. T. Anderson was recalled from the 93rd Brigade to take command of the 62nd Divisional Artillery in England: his place was taken by Major A. H. D. West from R.H.A.

Captain McKenna was invalided to England: Capt. West took command of B/91 and Lieut. Balfour became adjutant of 91st Bde.

On April 19th and 20th we were relieved by the 6th Division. The Germans attacked the Morteldje estaminet salient with some success during the relief on the 19th, capturing 500 yards of our front line.

During our tour in this sector the R.A. trench mortar batteries were first formed. Lieut. Traill and 2nd Lieuts. Scott and Glen were the first officers to be posted to the R.A. Trench Mortars.

On April 21st C.R.A. handed over to C.R.A. 6th Division and R.A. Headquarters joined the rest of the Divisional Artillery in the area Esquelbecq—Arneke—Roubrouck—Zeggars Cappel.

A/93 were left behind under C.R.A. 6th Division, in action at Dawson's corner. On April 24th they were heavily shelled and the gun position (in a barn) caught fire. Major R. T. Holland was awarded the M.C. for his leadership in putting out the fire and in rescuing a wounded man from the burning roof of the barn. This was the first immediate reward in the Divisional Artillery.

That night the 6th Division took back the lost trenches at Morteldje.

At the beginning of May Lt.-Col. A. B. Forman left the 90th Brigade on appointment to command an R.H.A. Brigade. His place was taken by Major A. Mellor from R.H.A.

The Divisional Artillery was inspected by General Plumer, Commanding 2nd Army in the first week of May. He again expressed his pleasure at the high standard of the turn out.

About this time Captain Tailyour 90th B.A.C. had his leg broken in Esquelbecq by his horse falling with him.

On May 2nd A/90 relieved A/93 at Dawson's corner.

While in the rest area a most successful horse show was held on May 12th and 13th. Belgian officers competed in the open jumping event and secured the first two places. The winning horse was "Biscuit", well known at Olyympia.

The Divisional jumping competition was tied for by Lt.-Col. A. H. D. West and Captain G. E. B. Watson, the former winning the jump off. Lieut. T. S. Stephenson who had replaced Lieut. Oyler as A.D.C. to C.R.A. 20th Division about Jan. 15th was third. Major E. E. Rich won the heavy weight chargers' event. C/91 were first in the competition for the best battery team, showing a fine team of black horses. 91st B.A.C. won the event for ammunition column teams, with a bay team.

The next proceeding was the reorganisation of the Ammunition Columns: the D.A.C. was divided into a first echelon (Nos. 1, 2, and 3 Sections) and a second echelon (No. 4 Section). The Bde. Ammunition Columns disappeared: after this the D.A.C. was composed as follows:—

No. 1 Section—Capt. T. A. Codner.

No. 2 Section—Capt. A. E. Wright (from 92nd B.A.C.)

No. 3 Section—Capt. E. MacA. Walker (from 93rd B.A.C.)

No. 4 Section—Capt. W. Laing.

Capt. Buckley from 91st B.A.C. became D.T.M.O. Capt. Wright replaced Capt. Staveley Dale, invalided. The surplus officers, N.C.O's, men, vehicles and animals, marched to Calais as soon as the re-organisation was complete.

This was not the end of re-organisation while we were out at rest: orders were received that the 92nd Brigade was to be a Howitzer Brigade no longer and that every Brigade was to consist of 3 18-pdr. batteries and 1 howitzer battery, when possible.

Accordingly C/92 was transferred to 91st Brigade and became D/91. D/92 was transferred to 93rd Brigade and became D/93. D/90, D/91 and D/93 was transferred to 92nd Brigade and became A/92, B/92 and C/92 respectively. B/92 remained in 92nd Brigade, but became D/92 as the orders were that howitzer batteries were all to be the D batteries of the respective Brigades.

To make this very complicated proceeding quite clear the following table shows how the batteries were brigaded following the re-organisation.

90th Bde.—Lt.-Col. A. Mellor.

A/90—Major A. E. B. Fair (18-pdr.)

B/90—Capt. E. E. Rich (18-pdr.)

C/90—Capt. G. E. B. Watson (18-pdr.)

91st Bde.—Lt.-Col. F. A. Wilson, D.S.O.

A/91—Major J. A. Butchart (18-pdr.)

B/91—Capt. C. A. West (18-pdr.)

C/91—Capt. H. R. Pownall (18-pdr.)

D/91—Capt. R. M. W. H. Philp (Howitzer).

92nd Bde.—Lt.-Col. H. G. Ricardo.

A/92—Capt. C. W. Bayne Jardine, M.C. (18-pdr.)

B/92—Major E. M. Conolly (18-pdr.)

C/92—Capt. P. T. Spencer Phillips (18-pdr.)

D/92—Capt. A. G. Cunningham, M.C. (Howitzer).

93rd Bde.—Lt.-Col. A. H. D. West.

A/93—Capt. R. T. Holland, M.C. (18-pdr.)

B/93—Capt. C. L. Knyvett, M.C. (18-pdr.)

C/93—Capt. A. G. Elliott (18-pdr.)

D/93—Major E. C. Fleming (Howitzer).

CHAPTER VII.

2ND VISIT TO YPRES.

On May 20th the C.R.A. 20th Division took over from the C.R.A. Guards Division in Poperinghe. The divisional sector stretched from Wieltje to Y wood, this being the right sector of the XIVth Corps. The trenches, or rather the breastworks, here were rather better than in the sector which we had left on April 21st. The gun positions were covered but pretty well-known to the enemy. On May 24th Major A. E. Erskine, D.S.O. arrived from C Battery, R.H.A., to take over the duties of Brigade Major from Major B. A. G. Watts (Australian Artillery). The latter was killed at Vaulx Vraucourt about a year later: he did a tremendous amount of work in training the officers in gunnery in the early days of the Division. Hardly had this change taken place when the 3rd Canadian Division on our right were heavily attacked: the Germans captured the twin hills 60 and 62 and Mount Sorrel: by the evening of June 2nd our front ran from Hooze, through Zouave wood and Maple Copse over Observatory Ridge to Square Wood, rejoining the original front line near the more notorious Hill 60. A section of C/92 were in a position at Maple Copse which allowed them to enfilade the front covered by the Divisional Artillery. These guns had to be abandoned, the survivors of the detachments fought with rifles in the front line; one of the sergeants of C/92 gained the Military Medal for this. I think his name was Davies.

On June 4th the Birthday honours list appeared: the C.R.A. received the C.B., Lt.-Col. Mellor, Majors Watts and Erskine the D.S.O. and Capt. Watson the M.C.

The G.O.C. Lahore Divisional Artillery, who were covering 3rd Canadian Division, asked the C.R.A. to let Captain Bayne Jardine return to his old battery in the Lahore Divisional Artillery, the battery having lost Major and Captain in the German attack of June 2nd.

Captain McKenna returned from England and took command of A/92.

The advanced sections of our D.A.C. near Valmirtinghe were heavily shelled by the German long range guns and had to be withdrawn nearer Poperinghe.

On June 6th the enemy blew up two mines on our front near Verlorenhoek and Railway Wood: one platoon of 12th Rifle Brigade was destroyed but the Germans failed to maintain a footing in our trenches. The 3rd Canadian Division lost the remainder of their old front line between Hooze and Sanctuary Wood, Zouave Wood, Wing House, and Wye Wood, where it joined our front line. In these operations our batteries gained distinction for the rapidity with which our S.O.S. barrage was opened and the accuracy with which it was maintained. The trench Mortar's also did very good work and M.C.'s were awarded to the D.T.M.O. (Captain Buckley)

and the O.C. Y/20 T.B. Bty. (Captain Traill). We had three T.M. Batteries, numbered X/20, Y/20 and Z/20.

A daily bombardment was kept up on the new German positions. D/75 of the Guards D.A. was sent up to assist us, the B.C. being Major C. Bates.

On June 13th the Canadians took back nearly all their old front line including Mount Sorrel and Hills 60 and 62. They took 80 prisoners of the 119th, 120th and 125th Wurtembergers, belonging to the 26th and 27th Divisions of the 13th Wurtemberg Corps. We constantly met these Divisions during the campaign, in fact it was quite queer how it happened.

About this time we heard that 2nd Lieut. Harvie of D/93 had died of wounds: he was the first officer of the 20th Divisional Artillery to meet his death.

On June 14th the R.A. Headquarters moved into a camp near Vlamertinghe: their tenancy lasted 36 hours after which they returned to Poperinghe, following a visit from the Corps Commander, Lord Cavan.

On June 19th a party of C/92 under 2nd Lieut. Grayburn managed to withdraw the lost guns over very bad country: both guns had been badly smashed by shell fire.

On June 29th Capt. Fleming was appointed to command a Battery R.H.A. Capt. Knyvett, M.C. transferred from B/93 to D/93 and Capt. C. W. Smeed from England took over B/93.

Fleming was one of the finest B.C's we ever had in the 20th Division and was killed in July 1917 while commanding a battery in the 38th Division. On July 1st we heard news of the Somme push. The fight at Mount Sorrel had apparently been meant to delay the Somme push, but failed to do so. From now on till we left this sector we were busy with raids, wire cutting, etc.

By July 17th our infantry had been relieved by the 6th Division who had been relieved in the left sector XIVth Corps by the Guards Division, about June 21st. The 6th Divisional Artillery had taken over support of the 3rd Canadian Division from Lahore Artillery, who had now become Divisional Artillery of the 4th Canadian Division.

The 3rd Canadian Divisional Artillery were in reserve but were not thought fit to go into the line at once, having only just arrived from England. We were left to cover the 6th Divisional Infantry and soon became on very good terms with them. Our infantry did not go straight to the Somme but to Ploegsteert and then on to Hebuterne. On July 20th the 3rd Canadian Divisional Artillery started to relieve the 6th Divisional Artillery who withdrew into reserve. This increased our discontent at being separated from our infantry as there seemed to be no reason why the 6th D.A. should not relieve us and cover their own infantry, leaving us to rejoin our infantry.

On July 21st a Boche plane blew up the 2nd Army reserve ammunition dump, which was unprotected by "archies." This reduced our daily ammunition expenditure.

About July 20th the 4th Division arrived in reserve behind us

with their artillery. Soon afterwards the XIVth Corps Headquarters, Guards Division complete (who had been relieved by the 4th Division complete) and the infantry of the 6th Division (who had been relieved by the Infantry of the 29th Division) left for the Somme.

Our infantry went off on July 26th accompanied by the S.A.A. subsections of the 20th D.A.C. the 29th D.A.C. had sent their S.A.A. subsections to be attached to our D.A.C. We heard that the 6th D.A. were to relieve us, allowing us to go with our infantry but on July 28th we heard that we were to stay where we were and that the 6th Division would go with its artillery. This caused more grumbles: we were now under the 8th Corps and were very unhappy.

At the end of July Capt. R. T. Holland left A/93 to become Brigade Major R.A. 34th Division

Captain M. C. Parry from Adj. 90th Brigade took command of A/93. Capt. Ross Brown became Adj. 90th Brigade. Shortly afterwards Capt. E. E. Rich was posted to command "V" Battery, R.H.A.—he was killed at Cambrai Nov. 1917—and Lieut. Balfour took command of B/90 for a short time. Lieut. Poer from B/90 took command of No. 1 Section D.A.C.

On August 9th the Germans gassed the 4th and 29th Divisional Sectors causing about 1000 casualties as the infantry were in the middle of brigade relief. How so many came to be gassed is a mystery: none of the 20th D.A. were gassed though we were covering the 29th Division.

On Aug. 4th the C.R.A. had the honour of being presented to H.M. the King at Poperinghe.

On Aug. 28th we commenced to reorganise again—this time the 90th Brigade was to disappear and we were to have 3 brigades each of three six gun 18-pdr. batteries and one four gun howitzer battery. The six gun batteries were to have a major and a captain. The problem was solved in the following manner, which caused a good deal of inevitable heart burning.

The accompanying table shows how the batteries were re-arranged.

91st Bde.—Lt.-Col. Wilson, D.S.O.

Adj. —Lieut. Balfour.

Signal Officer—Lieut. Scaife.

A/91 (old A/91 and 1 section old B/91) Major Butchart.

B/91 (old C/90 and 1 section old B/90) Capt. Watson, M.C.

C/91 (old C/91 and 1 section old B/91) Capt. Pownall.

D/91 (unchanged) Capt. Philp.

92nd Bde.—Lt.-Col. Ricardo.

Adj. —Lieut. Drayson.

Signal Officer—Lieut. Bertie.

A/92 (old A/92 and 1 section old C/92) Capt. McKenna.

B/92 (old B/92 and 1 section old C/92) Major Conolly.

C/92 (old A/90 and 1 section old B/90) Major Fair.

D/91 (unchanged) Capt. Cunningham, M.C.

93rd Bde.—Lt.-Col. A. H. D. West.

Adjt.—Capt. Ross Brown.

Signal Officer—Lieut. Oyler.

A/93 (old A/93 and 1 section old C/93) Major Mellor, D.S.O.

B/93 (old B/93 and 1 section old C/93) Capt. Smeed.

There was no C/93.

D/93 (unchanged) Capt. Knyvett, M.C.

20th D.A.C.—Lt.-Col. Foster.

Adjt.—Capt. R. Denman (from Adjt. 93rd Bde. *vice* Capt. F. P. Belcher.

No. 1 Section—Capt. Poer.

No. 2 Section—Capt. Codner.

No. 3 Section—Capt. Walker.

No. 4 Section—Capt. W. Laing.

The reorganisation of the 18-pdr. batteries into 6-gun units meant the appointments of several acting Captains. I cannot remember all of them at the time the reorganisation took place but the following were captains of batteries about the middle of Sept. 1916.

Lieut. Grayburn became Capt. of A/91.

Capt. Parry became Capt. of B/91.

Lieut. Balfour became Capt. of C/91.

Capt. Spencer Phillips became Capt. of A/92.

Capt. West became Capt. of B/92.

Lieut. Niccol became Capt. of C/92.

Capt. Wright became Capt. of A/93.

Lieut. Williams became Capt. of B/93.

A good deal of feeling was caused because 18-pdr. battery commanders were entitled to the acting rank of Major and 4.5 howitzer battery commanders were not. This grievance was done away with in Feb. 1917, but until then there was no competition for howitzer batteries.

CHAPTER VII.

WE MOVE TO THE SOMME.

On Sept. 3rd we heard two excellent bits of news. The first was that our infantry had taken Guillemont assisted by a brigade of the 16th Irish Division. As several divisions had failed to take Guillemont we felt more than proud of our infantry.

The other piece of news was that we were to march to the Somme starting on 8th Sept. The 6th D.A. who had not gone to the Somme with their infantry, (contrary to expectations) relieved

us on the 5th and 6th September. It would have been a help if they could have done so ten days earlier, as re-organising a divisional artillery while still in the line (especially at Ypres) was rather a ticklish performance.

On Sept. 8th we marched to the area round Cassel, which was fairly full of Army troops. Next morning we marched through Ebblinghem to the Théroutan area.

On Sept. 10th we moved on to the area about Monchy-Cayeux. It is perhaps worth noting that the Chateau at this place had been occupied by the French G.H.Q. in 1915.

On Sept. 11th we marched through St. Pol and Frevent to the area Boubiers sur Canche. Sept. 12th we moved on to the area between Frohem le Petit Meillard. This was the only wet night of our march, and naturally the only night we were short of billets.

On Sept. 13th we moved on to the Flesselles billeting area. The Brigade Major had to go on to 14 Corps H.Q. at Meaulte to get orders, for we were returning to the 14th Corps.

On Sept. 14th we moved on to Bois des Tailles camp; the 91st Brigade only had about two hours rest here before going on into action just north of Maricourt.

This meant a total march of 46 miles in the course of the day for the horses of the 91st Brigade (i.e. 30 miles from Flesselles to Bois des Tailles; 8 miles from Bois des Tailles to Maricourt and 8 miles back to wagon lines at Bois des Tailles).

During the march we heard rumours of the Tanks, which were to be used on Sept. 15th for the first time. Before going on to describe our share in the Somme battle, it seems worth while to pay a tribute to the help we received during the march to the Somme from Capt. Clegg, our supply officer, and from our supply Company (158 R.A.S.C.) under Major Chaplin. They were both good friends to the 20th Divisional Artillery and did everything they could for us. The C.R.A. brought their work to the notice of the Divisional Commander on this occasion.

The batteries of the 91st Brigade were the only units of the 20th D.A. to take part in the battle of Sept. 15th (with the exception of the S.A.A. sections of the D.A.C. under Lt. Munro who had been in the battle with our infantry). They were in action at the northern end of Bois Faviere and had established O.P's by the time the attack commenced.

Flers, Courcellette, Martinpuich and a bit of Bourleaux wood were captured on our left: on the XIV Corps front the Guards Div. made a slight advance, the 61st Brigade of our Division, on the right of the Guards went a bit further still: but the 6th Division on the right of the 61st Brigade was held up by the Quadrilateral redoubt and suffered very heavily.

The 56th Division, on the right of the 6th Division, got well forward: the 91st Brigade R.F.A. were covering part of the 56th Division's front.

On Sept. 16th the 6th Division took the Quadrilateral, thus straightening the Corps front.

On Sept. 19th the 92nd and 93rd Brigades went into action near

Guillemont, to the south of Trones Wood. The going was very heavy, as a lot of rain fell on the night of Sept. 19th and 20th.

The wagon lines were moved up to Carnoy: it is not likely that there were a muddier lot of wagon lines in France throughout the war: the work of getting ammunition up to the batteries was very heavy and packs had to be improvised as ammunition wagons could not possibly get up to the gun positions.

On Sept. 25th the 14th Corps took Les Bœufs and Morval: our infantry had gone out to rest at Treux. On the night 25th/26th Sept. the enemy evacuated Combles; the French on the right of XIV Corps had got well round to the south of Combles on the 25th, capturing Fregicourt, so the Germans had found Combles untenable. By Sept. 27th the 91st Brigade were out of range at Bois Faviere and the 56th Division whom they were supporting had been squashed out of the line by the evacuation of Combles.

At the end of Sept. all three Brigades of the 20th D.A. moved into new positions N.E. of Ginchy, in the notorious Toc 7 valley: our new front was in the vicinity of Gueudecourt: we covered many Divisions, including our own, the 17th, 8th and 33rd: no great advance was made though our infantry put up a fine show in taking Rainbow and Cloudy trenches N.E. of Gueudecourt on Oct. 7th, and by the end of October the battle had moved away to our left. Toc 7 valley was very unhealthy, being visible and enfiladed from the direction of Bapaume. We had many casualties in this spot.

Captain Philp of D/91 was killed, his place being taken by Lieut T. H. Holland, brother of Capt. R. T. Holland; Major Connolly was wounded; Major Fair, Capt. McKenna and Capt. Smeed were invalided; Major Mellor was appointed to command a Brigade in the Sixth D.A.; Capt. Tailyour returned to the Division.

By this time units were commanded as follows:—

91st Brigade—Lieut.-Col. Wilson, D.S.O.

Adjut.—Lieut. Younghusband. Signals—Lieut. Scaife.

A/91—Major Butchart, Capt. Grayburn.

B/91—Major Watson, M.C., Capt. Gibbons.

C/91—Major Pownall, Capt. Balfour.

D/91—Capt. Holland.

92nd Brigade—Lieut.-Col. Ricardo.

Adjut.—Lieut. J. R. Drayson. Signals—Lieut. A. W. Bertie.

A/92—Major Spencer Phillips, Capt. Tailyour.

B/92—Major Parry, Capt. Reynolds.

C/92—Capt. Niccol.

D/92—Capt. A. G. Cunningham, M.C.

93rd Brigade—Lieut.-Col. A. H. D. West.

A/93—Major A. E. Wright, Capt. Sandeman.

B/93—Major C. A. West, Capt. Gee Williams.

D/93—Capt. C. L. Knyvett, M.C.



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**BRIG.-GENERAL W. B. BROWELL, C.M.G., R.A.,
C.R.A. 20th Division, November 1916—August 1917.**

CHAPTER VIII.

CONSOLIDATION.

At the end of November, the 91st Brigade and No. 1 Section D.A.C. went out to rest until Dec. 27th, when they relieved the 93rd Brigade who had moved to Toc 8 valley, a rather more healthy place than Toc 7. On the same day a Brigade of Guards D.A. relieved the 92nd Brigade; 92nd and 93rd Brigade and Nos. 2, 3, and 4 Sections D.A.C. all went out to rest in the Corbie-Morlancourt area.

On November 14th General Hotham was invalided home at his own request. He left very quietly: I think the 20th D.A. were as sorry to lose him as he was to leave them; I was privileged to say goodbye to him when he left Bernafay Wood H.Q. so I know how much he felt giving up his command: he always had our interests at heart and fought many battles for us when he thought we were being imposed upon. The D.A. showed their admiration for him by the presentation which they made him. He was succeeded by Brig.-Genl. W. B. Browell, C.M.G. who came from the 14th Division.

At the end of Dec. D/93 was split up, one section going to join D/91 and one section to D/92. Major C. L. Knyvett from D/93 went to command C/92, Capt. Niccol becoming second in command. Capt. Earle from Staff Capt. R.A. took command of D/91 with Capt. R. N. L. Protheroe as Captain. Lieut. Drayson acted as Staff Capt. until Capt. Cox (Guards D.A.) arrived to take up the appointment. Capt. T. H. Holland became Capt. of D/92. The 93rd Brigade were composed as follows in the first week of 1917.

H.Q.—Lieut.-Col. West

A/93—Major Ross Brown, Capt. Oyler.

B/93—Major C. A. West, Capt. Gee Williams.

Surplus batteries from other divisions were re-numbered C/93 and D/93.

Shortly afterwards No. 3 Section D.A.C. (Capt. E. MacA. Walker) became 93rd B.A.C. as 93rd Brigade was made into one of the newly organised Army Field Artillery Brigades. They remained in the XIV Corps for some time.

On January 7th, the 91st Brigade were pulled out of Toc 8 valley and relieved a Brigade of the Guards D.A. near Combles. on January 9th. Here they were soon joined by 92nd Brigade, the two brigades covering the 17th Division front in the Saily Saillisel sector; our own infantry were in the next sector to the left.

The New Year Honour List brought many awards to the 20th D.A. C.M.G.—Lt.-Col. F. A. Wilson, D.S.O. D.S.O's—Lt.-Cols. Ricardo and West, Major Butchart. M.C.'s—Majors Pownall and Fleming, Capt. McKenna.

On Feb. 8th, 17th Division carried out a small operation capturing Green Howard trench with some 40 prisoners. The 29th Division had a most successful attack in the sector on our left which

they had taken over from our infantry; 280 prisoners were taken here.

On Feb. 26th the 29th Division took over from 17th Division on the front we were covering and carried out a partially successful attack on Feb. 28th capturing a few prisoners. From these we learnt that the Germans were about to fall back to a very strong line as the ceaseless attacks on a minor scale on the Somme front had made them think that the Allied Spring Offensive of 1917 would be on the Somme.

In addition to the B.C's already mentioned some of our casualties on the Somme were:

Sept. 20th. Lieut. Wartnaby C/91 wounded and remained on duty.

Oct. 1st. Lieuts. Magowan A/91, Hinde B/91, Owen C/91 wounded.

Oct. 4th. Lieut. Scudamore B/91 wounded.

Oct. 7th. Lieut. Dixon A/93 and Lieut. Spreat wounded. The latter was awarded the M.C. but unfortunately died of wounds.

Oct. 14th. 2nd Lieut. Atkin D/92 wounded.

Oct. 18th. 2nd Lieut. Bramwell Davies D/92 wounded.

Oct. 21st. Lieut. Hoare D/93 wounded.

Oct. 26th. Lieut. Scott, M.C. 2nd Lieut. Dannahy of Trench Mortars, killed.

Total casualties amongst other ranks averaged 10 per day (excluding sick) for the D.A. This is not a complete list.

In the first week of March the 93rd Brigade left the Division. Capt. Drayson became Capt. of A/93 *vice* Oyler, invalided.

Lieut. Bertie became Adjt. and 2nd Lieut. Patten signal officer of 92nd Brigade.

Subsequently the 93rd Brigade took part in the battles of Arras, Ypres, Cambrai and the retreat from St. Quentin. Since when I have heard no news of them.

Out of the officers who left the 20th D.A. with this Brigade, Lieut.-Col. West went to command 5th Brigade R.H.A. after Arras; Major Ross Brown survived, Capt. Oyler returned to the Brigade and was wounded again. Capt. Drayson fell at Arras while commanding his battery, Capt. Gee Williams was invalided from the army, Major West and Capt. Butler were killed at Ypres. I do not know the fate of the other officers who went to that Brigade from 20th D.A., but we were eager always for news of them, and mourned their losses as if they had still been officially a part of the 20th Divisional Artillery.

On 2nd March the 29th D.A. relieved us—we side-stepped to our left and took over from 17th D.A. covering the Le Transloy sector; the 17th D.A. departed to Arras followed by the 29th D.A. who were relieved by the Guards D.A. The new front covered by us was held by our own infantry. About the same date the three weeks frost came to an end. It was perhaps the most trying period of the campaign especially to the colonial troops.

CHAPTER IX.

THE GERMAN RETREAT.

On St. Patrick's Day 1917 the Germans evacuated the forward zone on our front. That night the 91st Brigade were in action N. of Saily Saillisel. On March 18th 92nd Brigade advanced to positions N. of Rocquigny. These moves were very hard work on men and horses and all were glad when the shell torn area had been crossed. On 19th March the 91st Brigade moved to positions south of Rocquigny. The D.A. were still covering their own infantry but the Division had come under the command of XV Corps with the 8th and 40th Divisions. Little resistance was met with until the Division reached the line Ruyaulcourt—Neuville—Bourjonval—Fins. The 8th Division were on our right and the Australians on our left. On March 30th we had a small fight, advancing to the ground overlooking Metz en Couture: the 12th King's Liverpools took Ruyaulcourt in fine style: the Division on our right (the 8th) made a rather deeper advance, this being the intention of the Corps Commander. Our infantry were nearly all fresh drafts of a few weeks service, but they kept very good formation and had few casualties as a result. It was quite a new experience for nearly all the artillery officers to witness an advance under the conditions of open warfare.

On April 4th a fresh advance took place, our infantry reaching a line including part of the western and all the southern edge of Havrincourt Wood and joining up with the 8th Division at Gouzeaucourt Wood: our infantry lost 30%, the casualties being inflicted for the most part by machine guns in the S.W. corner of Havrincourt Wood and in the outskirts of Metz-en-Couture, which was heavily wired. The general opinion was that the infantry were given too long a time in which to reach Metz: there was snow on the ground, but it was all down hill and 40 minutes certainly seemed excessive for a 1½ miles advance under such conditions, as there was no cover all the way. For the whole of this 40 minutes a standing barrage was kept upon the outskirts of Metz but there were not enough guns available to keep down machine gun fire from such a position. The left attack on Havrincourt Wood was also heavily punished: the plan was for most of the troops of the left attack to advance down the valley from Vallulart Wood to Metz and then swing to the left, taking the edge of Havrincourt Wood from the south: as the S.W. corner of the Wood was the highest part on our front the assault was naturally enfiladed from the left as soon as it climbed up out of the valley. The weather was foggy, but cleared, unfortunately, as soon as the barrage started: an attempt by an F.O.O. of the 91st Brigade to take on a machine gun on his own initiative was frustrated by an inexperienced infantry officer, which was a great pity. The view of at least one Artillery Brigade Commander was that the S.W. corner of Havrincourt Wood should have been taken as a preliminary to the capture of Metz.

The 8th Division on our right were hung up most of the day by

an enemy position in the sunken road west of Gouzeaucourt Wood ; this made a gap between our right and the left of the 8th Division. However our right commanded this road from Metz cemetery, the enemy withdrew in the night to the other side of Gouzeaucourt Wood. After the attack our artillery advanced from their positions N. and S. of Ypres to positions N.W. and S.E. of Neuville-Bourjonval. We were by this time almost within range of the Hindenburg line at Havrincourt, so could do very little until the right of the XVth Corps had advanced considerably further. On April 7th Captain H. R. Pownall, M.C. went to the 17th Division as Brigade Major R.A., a great loss to the 20th Division. Capt. Balfour took command of C/91, Lieut. Wartnaby becoming Captain.

On April 10th our infantry advanced unopposed and occupied nearly the whole of Havrincourt Wood except the N.E. corner.

On April 11th the 91st Brigade took up positions on S.W. outskirts of Metz.

On April 12th our infantry established a post in Trescault clearing two redoubts which had been shelled throughout the day of April 12th by our batteries. On April 13th the 40th Division who had come between us and the 8th Division advanced from Gouzeaucourt Wood, taking Gouzeaucourt and Beaucamp: they were compelled to fall back from Beaucamp by enfilade machine gun fire from Bilhem Farm (just north of Trescault.)

Next day such of our guns as were in range, registered on points near Bilhem, carefully avoiding the farm. At dusk a barrage was put up on Bilhem which was rushed without loss.

At dawn on the 15th the 40th Division captured Beaucamp. On the 21st the 40th Division captured Gonnellieu: on the 24th they took Villers Plouich assisted by fire from the 91st Brigade.

On the 15th Lieut. Renny of C/92, while on reconnaissance, rode into No Man's Land, where an enemy patrol shot him. His body was discovered on the 23rd. On April 25th all ranks of the Division received the congratulations of the C.-in-C. on their good work. On May 1st the 92nd Brigade went into action at Gouzeaucourt Wood to assist the 40th Division in capturing La Vacquerie.

This attack was afterwards turned into a raid which was heavily punished. Prisoners stated they were ordered to clear out if attacked. After the raid the Germans seemed to realize how badly off for gun positions they would have been if we held La Vacquerie, so included it as an outpost of the Hindenburg line. In the light of subsequent events the decision not to take La Vacquerie and hold it before the Germans had consolidated it, was a very unfortunate one.

On May 3rd and 4th there were two false gas alarms for some reason or other. At the end of April Capt. G. E. B. Watson was wounded and Capt. Gibbons took command of B/91 until Capt. Edge, M.C. was posted to command it; Captain Gibbons becoming Capt. of B/91 again.

The 92nd Brigade returned to positions west of Havrincourt Wood after the raid on La Vacquerie and the whole Corps sat down to consolidate. It was a most peaceful front. A section of 5.9s did counter battery shoots at intervals causing very little damage. No Man's Land was 1000 yards wide so that we could not fire on much

behind the enemy's front line. Sections of howitzers were moved up into Havrincourt Wood to deal with movement behind the enemy's lines. It was easy soil for digging, and our trenches spread rapidly until a continuous front and support line had been dug, after which communication trenches were started. Bilhem was the only nasty spot on our front.

There was some talk of an attack on Havrincourt but as soon as vigorous preparations had started the idea was given up.

About 23rd May the Division was relieved by the 42nd East Lancs. Division (Territorial) from Egypt.

CHAPTER X.

LAGNICOURT.

On May 20th and 26th the Divisional Artillery marched to Beaulencourt and proceeded to take over from the 2nd Australian D.A., covering the sector Bullecourt exclusive to Queant (held by the enemy). The Australians had been fighting continuously round Lagnicourt and Bullecourt since April and so had few trenches or dug-outs. By May 28th the relief was complete: we set to work to consolidate our front, no new task after what we had done at Trescault, though our new sector was considerably less quiet than our old one.

The 91st Brigade were in action behind Lagnicourt and the 92nd Brigade behind Noreuil. Three valleys run from the high ground round Vaulx Vraulcourt down to Queant. This village commands an extensive view of each of the three valleys. The 91st Brigade were in action in the southernmost, and the 92nd Brigade in the northernmost of these three valleys. There were very few Field Artillery positions and we could hardly fire at all before noon as the enemy balloons could see everything. In the afternoon they were seldom in the air and we made merry.

One or two successful raids were made. We were identified and the Wurtembergers whom we had defeated at Guillemont, came to keep an eye on us. From a diary captured at Cambrai it transpired that this relief took place as the Germans regarded us as a "storm" division and expected to be attacked in front of Queant. However we were just on the fringe of the fight.

To return to the topography of the sector it is of interest to note that the attacks of Sept. 1918 crossed the three Queant valleys in succession from the north, Queant being taken shortly before Lagnicourt! We know why, for the graves of the dead of the 20th Divisional Artillery were a warning to an attack on Queant from the S.W. with artillery support.

Early in June Lt.-Col. F. A. Wilson, C.M.G., D.S.O. left us to become C.R.A. Guards Division, to the great grief of the 91st

Brigade. However they were fortunate in his successor, Major A. E. Erskine, D.S.O. who gave up his job as Bde. Major to command the 91st Brigade. We never had a better Bde. Major in the 20th D.A. This necessitated various changes: Capt. T. H. Holland took command of D/92, Lieut. Pickard becoming Captain, and Major A. G. Cunningham, M.C. went from D/92 to take up the job of Bde. Major.

We only spent a month in this sector: during which time minor operations were still going on W. of Bullecourt. The whole Division had to work hard, burying the dead in Lagnicourt, (where fierce fighting had taken place in April 1917), digging trenches and making mine dug-outs. Just when things were getting ship-shape we were relieved by the 62nd Division. It is of interest to note that Genl. Anderson, C.R.A. 62nd Division, was for some time O.C. 93rd Brigade R.F.A.

The Birthday Honours brought a D.S.O. to Major Watson B/91 and M.C.'s. to Capt. Balfour C/91 and Lieut. Drayson 92nd Brigade Headquarters. Capt. Milligan, R.A.M.C. attached 92nd Brigade Headquarters also received an M.C. By June 25th we were all clear of Bapaume and were at rest in the Meaulte-Carnoy area. Here we were able to do driving drill; Divisional Artillery Sports were held and various Rugger and Soccer matches came off: the most amusing event was a match between the 91st Brigade Headquarters and the Portuguese railway company.

On July 3rd we left Carnoy and marched through Albert, Doullens, and St. Pol and Aire to Wormhoudt. Major Spencer Phillips of A/92, a doctor in private life, was transferred to the R.A.M.C., Captain Tailyour taking over the battery with Lieut. Butcher as Captain.

CHAPTER XI.

3RD BATTLE OF YPRES.

On July 15th the Divisional Artillery went into new positions east of Elverdinghe, in the vicinity of Dead Man Farm. Capt. Gibbons and Lieut. Edwards B/91 were wounded on the way up, and received M.C.'s. for gallantry in extricating teams. Lieut. Scudamore became Capt. of B/91.

The area round Ypres was very different to what it had been in February and May 1916. Camouflage was scattered broadcast, giving most batteries flash cover. By the time we came into action the enemy artillery were pretty well subdued and only troubled us with extensive gas shelling at night from special positions. As there was no means other than sound ranging capable of spotting these night firing positions, and as they altered nightly it was of little use replying on suspected areas. We suffered little damage on the whole: B/92 however, lost 30 men in three nights, Major Parry

winning the M.C. in attending to gassed men in his battery under very heavy fire. The D.A.C. lost a considerable number of animals, bringing up ammunition at night. C/91 lost nearly all the sergeants in a fortnight by sheer bad luck.

On July 31st the British offensive, which was to culminate fruitlessly on the tragic Passchendaele ridge, started early in the morning. We had been delayed six days by the French: it is idle to dream of what might have happened had we started on 25th July and had not our projected attack on the coastal sector (north of Dixmude) been defeated by an enemy operation on July 10th it was a shrewd blow and caught us unawares.

On July 31st 1917 the D.A. column was commanded as follows.

C.R.A.—Brig.-Genl. Browell, C.M.G.
Bde. Major—Major A. G. Cunningham, M.C.
Staff Captain—Capt. H. B. Cox.
Reconnaissance Officer—Lieut. H. B. Potter.

91st Brigade.—Lt.-Col. A. E. Erskine, D.S.O.
Adjt.—Capt. L. N. Younghusband.
Signal Officer—Lieut. W. F. Scaife.
A/91—Major Butchart, D.S.O., Capt. Grayburn.
B/91—Major Edge, M.C., Capt. Scudamore.
C/91—Major Balfour, M.C., Capt. Wartnaby.
D/91—Major Earle, D.S.O., Capt. Prothero.

92nd Brigade—Lt.-Col. H. G. Ricardo, D.S.O.
Adjt.—Capt. A. W. Bertie.
Signal Officer—2nd Lieut. Patten, M.C.
A/92—Major Tailyour, Capt. Butcher.
B/92—Major Parry, M.C., Capt. Reynolds.
C/92—Major Knyvett, M.C., Capt. Niccol.
D/92—Major Holland, Capt. Pickard.
D.A.C.—Lt.-Col. J. R. Foster. Adjt.—Capt. Denman.

No. 1 Section—Capt. Poer.
No. 2 Section—Capt. Codner.
No. 3 Section—Capt. Laing.

We were in the XIVth Corps on July 31st: the French were on the left of the Corps; and the XVIIth British Corps (I think) on our right. In the XIVth Corps the Guards attacked on the left supported by the 29th Division: on the right the 38th Division attacked supported by the 20th Division. The Corps attack was supported by Guards, 20th, 29th and 38th Divisional Artilleries, several Army R.F.A. Brigades and numerous heavy pieces. All our objectives were taken and a counter-attack by the Berlin Cockchafers was smashed. The Corps on our right were not so successful: at mid-day the 92nd Brigade advanced to positions near the Ypres—Boesinghe road: in the afternoon the 91st Brigade attempted to cross the canal at Ney Bridge: a battery stuck in the marsh east of this bridge and the attempt had to be abandoned. Next morning all

but two guns of D/91 were across but four days heavy rain changed the entire aspect of the battle. After a visit to the batteries Brig.-Genl. Browell, C.M.G. was taken ill and had to go home invalided. His place was taken by Brig.-Genl. H. W. A. Christie, C.M.G. from the 15th Division.

Lieut. Humphreys D/91 and Lieut. Glossop C/91 who acted as F.O.O's, were awarded the M.C. and four of their signallers the M.M. The 92nd Brigade F.O.O's had bad luck, 2nd Lieut. Harrison and nearly all the signallers being killed.

The Corps did nothing until August 12th when the 29th Division took the Wijndrift Spur and reached Broenbek: the 20th Division took Langemarck with heavy casualties, owing to the Division on the right being held up. The 92nd Brigade joined the 91st Brigade on the western slopes of Pilkem Ridge: we did our best to dig in as we could not advance until the Corps on our right had progressed.

2nd Lieut. Potter and Lieut. Green of B/92 received the M.C. for work at Langemarck.

The Guards (left) and the 38th Division (right) relieved the 29th (left) and 20th Division (right): the French ceased to do anything offensive with the result that all German heavy artillery on the French front switched round on to ours with distressing results. It must be remembered that this was probably owing to the tumult in France over their heavy losses in April and May 1917.

Anyway it cost us dearly in Aug. and Sept. 1917.

After Langemarck little was done and by August 28th the 20th Divisional Infantry had gone south, after taking White trench in two small actions which were lucrative in prisoners. 2nd Lieut. Allan gained the M.C. and bar in these attacks. 2nd Lieut. Robinson C/91 gained the M.C. and was very badly wounded, suffering the terrible misfortune of losing his sight.

More rain occurred and the battle died down on our front until Sept. when the 38th Division complete were withdrawn and went south, being replaced by the 4th Division. On Sept. 20th the Corps on our right had much success of which most went with the Australians. There had been rumours of consolidating the position we had reached and stopping a costly performance. The advance of Sept. 20th followed by that of Sept. 26th had unfortunate results.

We were told that only three fresh German Divisions were left and that we might stay in a bit longer in order to give the *coup de grâce*. No regimental officer believed such a story—we had mighty evidence of the kick still left in the (reported) dying German. Early in Sept. B/91, C/91, A/92 and C/92 had a week's rest. At the end of the month the 91st Brigade took up positions just behind the crest of Pilkem Ridge: Captain Cox went away sick, his place being taken by Capt. Carpenter as Staff Captain R.A. On Oct. 4th the 4th Division joined in the attack and captured part of Poelcappel with heavy loss. The 92nd Brigade went into camouflaged positions in the open on the eastern slopes of Pilkem ridge. Curiously enough they had very few casualties in these positions.

On the night of Oct. 7/8 the 91st Brigade received orders to occupy positions on the Steenbèek, a few hundred yards behind our front line. Heavy "road strafing" delayed the departure of the

batteries from 6.30 p.m. on the 7th until 10.30 p.m. in which time most of the teams became casualties. It was very difficult to carry out this scheme as the enemy always strafed the roads at that time, a point which was known to all battery commanders. Most of the guns were finally got in, in the early morning of Oct. 8th *without loss*. Major Balfour C/91 was killed while getting his guns in about 11 p.m. on the 7th.

The 91st Brigade were in action on either side of the Steenbeek near Tufts bridge and north of the Ypres—Studen railway. They registered on the 8th. On August 9th the Guards attacked and advanced from the Broenbeck to Houthulst Forest—a very remarkable performance. The French did well on the left of the Guards but all the troops on our right had moderate success.

On the 12th Oct. another small advance was made: on Oct. 15th A/91 and D/91 went out to their wagon lines. On Oct. 18th the 34th D.A. relieved the 20th D.A. who had been sadly reduced by casualties. Every battery had lost an average of 8 officers killed wounded and invalided and 100% to 150% of their gunners. In spite of the efforts of the C.R.A. to get us relieved sooner we were told there was no one to relieve us. I shall refer to this again later on as it shows how badly the gunners came off in the way of relief.

We had gained many honours, but at what a price. In addition to those previously mentioned the following were awarded M.C.'s. for the 3rd battle of Ypres:—

Major Tailyour A/92, Capt. Gwyn D/91, Capt. Prothero D/91, Major Holland D/92, Capt. Denman, D.A.C., Capt. Laing, D.A.C., Lieut. Gulliver and 2nd Lieut. Elliott, D.A.C., also Capt. Glen and Lieut. Grant of Trench Mortars.

Major Knyvett, M.C. C/92 got the D.S.O.

On Oct. 18th the batteries were commanded as follows:

A/91—Major Bulchart, D.S.O. Capt. Grayburn.

B/91—Major Buckley, M.C. Capt. Humphreys, M.C.

C/91—Capt. Wartnaby.

D/91—Major Earle, D.S.O. Capt. Gwyn, M.C.

A/92—Major Tailyour, M.C. Capt. Butcher.

B/92—Major Parry, M.C. Capt. Reynolds.

D/92—Major Holland, M.C. Capt. Pickard.

Major Buckley had taken the place of Major Edge, invalided in Aug 1917. Capt. Humphreys came from D/91 to replace Capt. Scudamore—wounded Sept. 1917—as Captain of B/91. Major Balfour was killed on the 8th Oct. 1917 and had not been replaced. Capt. Gwyn replaced Capt. Prothero who was invalided Sept. 1917. Major Niccol was promoted from Captain of C/92 to Major thereof on the invaliding of Major Knyvett in Oct. 1917. Lieut. Currie of A/91 became Captain of C/92.

CHAPTER XII.

CAMBRAI.

On Oct. 20th and 21st the Divisional Artillery entrained at Proven and journeyed down to Peronne: here we detrained, hindered by the most unpleasant R.T.O. to be found in France—a contrast to the R.T.O.'s at Proven who had helped to man-handle our guns onto the trucks and had given advice as to loading in a deprecatory manner. The last battery arrived at noon on the 22nd: we marched to Fins and Sorel le Grand, half of each battery going into action that night. We found the 40th Division still down here: on completion of the relief on the night 23/24th Oct. the 40th D.A. went out to rest for a month after seven months in a quiet sector! We felt somewhat ill-used but learnt in the next few weeks that a Divisional Artillery arriving in one army from another was usually bundled straight into the line on the supposition that it was fresh. If lists had been kept for each A.F.A. Brigade and each Divisional Artillery showing the number of days in the line in each sector and the casualties whilst in that sector, the said lists being passed on from one Army to another as soon as orders arrived for units to move from one Army to another—then there would have been very few cases of exhausted R.A. units being put in to hold the line without opportunities for refitting and battery training, whilst fresh units got those opportunities.

In the late war subalterns only had very limited opportunities of seeing their entire sections—in fact it was only when a unit was out of the line that section commanders had a fair chance of getting hold of their sections.

In November Capt. Francis became Staff Capt. R.A. instead of Capt. Carpenter who had been acting in that capacity since Capt. Cox went sick.

The sector held by us extended from near our old friend Bilhem Farm to the southern end of the Banteux spur. The trenches and gun positions were well fortified, as the sector had been very peaceful since the beginning of April 1917.

On Oct. 28th Capt. Price-Williams, M.C. arrived from England to command C/91.

The 55th Division was on our right. I cannot remember what Division was on our left. Before November was really with us it began to appear that "something was up." Mysterious reconnaissances of gun positions very close to, and in some cases, in view of the German front line were carried out. One day the C.R.A. summoned all unit commanders and under strict vow of secrecy, which was faithfully kept, revealed the plan of a great surprise attack. Unit commanders were only to tell their officers the day before the attack: no discussions were to take place even then. From this day onwards all units were terribly hard worked forming ammunition dumps, all carefully camouflaged, at selected forward gun positions. Gouzeaucourt and Villers Guislain were full of heavy and siege batteries—an unavoidable and disastrous occurrence as it turned out.

Ten days of very misty weather helped the preparations incalculably. Very few German planes were seen and they could not fly low enough to see what was going on.

On the night of Nov. 18/19th our Divisional front was concentrated on its centre; the 12th Division came in between our right and the 55th Division. The 6th Division came in on our left. Our infantry outposts still held the entire front of our original sector—a masterly idea: that night the enemy who had discovered from a prisoner captured near Havrincourt that something was up, raided our front and took a prisoner who gave away a little information without revealing the concentration of our front.

On the night of Nov. 19th/20th all batteries moved to forward positions and the Tanks moved to their starting point just behind our front line. Continuous night firing was carried out during the concentration to drown the noise of transports and tanks. We were to attack in the centre of the 3rd Corps, 6th Division on our left, 12th Division on our right; the 29th Division were to pass through the 6th Division at the 2nd objective.

It must be remembered that British troops were already on their way to Italy: a French Corps was concentrated at Peronne but were not to be used until Cambrai had fallen.

Just before dawn on Nov. 20th the attack started, and met with instant success on our front. Unfortunately the 51st Division were held up at Flesquiere all day: the 3rd Corps soon reached its objectives, capturing most of Banteuxspur, Pam-Pam Farm, Lateau Wood, Les Rues Vertes, Masnieres and Marcoing. The 29th Division however failed to break the Masnieres-Beaurevoir line, north of the canal. Tanks cleared Masnieres but unfortunately a tank broke down the bridge at Marcoing. The cavalry were meant to cross at Masnieres and Marcoing and make for Cambrai: owing to the break down of the bridge at Marcoing the Canadian Cavalry Brigade only crossed the canal—at Masnieres—and were cut up after reaching the outskirts of Cambrai. The 20th D.A., an A.F.A. Brigade and a Brigade of the 29th Division advanced into the Masuieres—La Vacquerie Valley and took up positions in little off shoots of this valley. It soon became apparent that batteries could not advance further until the Masuieres-Serainvillers ridge had been taken.

On the morning of Nov. 21st the 29th Division attempted to push along this ridge without much success, though they cleared part of the Masuieres Beaurevoir line. The 59th Brigade cleared Rues des Vignes but had to retire from it owing to heavy hostile fire. Our front ran out in a large half oval from Lateau Wood nearly to Rues des Vignes and back to Les Vertes Rues. The 20th Divisional Infantry were thoroughly exhausted and only able to dig small front and support posts. A line was started from Lateau Wood, in front of Bonavis Farm and on to Masnieres but with tired troops the work only went on very slowly and the line was not a serious obstacle.

The 12th Division was thrown out of Bleak Quarry on the 21st and took it back on the 22nd: the heavy artillery nearly all stayed in Villers Guislain and Gouzeaucourt.

On our front the 20th D.A. could only just cover the front line at extreme range, firing in enfilade.

On the morning of Nov. 21st Majors Parry (B/92) and Tailyour (A/92) were wounded at Bonavis Farm: Major Niccol went on long leave to New Zealand, so the Brigade was left very short of B.C's. it was reconstituted as follows:—

A/92—Major Butcher, Capt. Green.

B/92—Major Reynolds, Capt. Belcher.

C/92—Major Laing, Capt. Currie.

D/92—Major Holland, Capt. Pickard.

Lieut. Macdonald took command of No. 3 Section D.A.C. in place of Major Laing, (This list may be inaccurate).

On the morning of Nov. 30th the enemy attacked from Banteux to Masnières, and also from in front of Flesquiere to Bourlon Wood (where heavy fighting had been going on for 10 days). Villers Guislain was soon overrun costing us many heavy batteries and decimating the 55th Division: Gonnellieu soon fell, but the enemy failed to reach La Vacquerie. However the loss of Lateau Wood by the 12th Division turned the right flank of the 20th Division who fell back to the Hindenburg support line. The 29th Division held on heroically at Masnières for 48 hours.

The 92nd Brigade who had endured heavy gas shelling all night had to abandon their guns, removing their breech blocks and retiring in good order, after beating off German attacks at close range—a performance for which they were mentioned in G.H.Q. despatches. The R.H.A. Bde. of the 29th Division who were in action with the 92nd Brigade in the valley behind Banairs Farm were also forced to leave their guns; they fought as infantry for the rest of the day. The wagon-lines of the 92nd Brigade near Gouzeaucourt were overrun; many of the wagon-line personnel were captured: Lieut. Maynard and his dump at Gouzeaucourt station were taken, but some of his men escaped while being marched away under escort. In the meantime the 91st Brigade remained in action just in front of La Vacquerie; our infantry held a line on the ridge 200 yards in front of the Brigade: the line went back to the southern edge of La Vacquerie on the right and up onto Welsh ridge and along it on the left.

Hostile aircraft gave the 91st Brigade a bad time all day but caused few casualties—the officers' servants of C/91 shot down a German aeroplane with rifles!

B.C's of the 91st Brigade were told that the limbers were coming up but might be late in arriving.

B.C's were given full authority to abandon guns if they deemed it necessary: in reply a message was sent that no guns would be abandoned before 5 a.m. on Dec. 1st, unless the Germans arrived before then. Dawn was at six a.m. and detachments would have had to be over Welsh ridge by then.

In the meantime the limbers of the 91st Brigade had been sent up: B/91 teams arrived at dusk and withdrew their guns through La Vacquerie to Villers-Plouich: C/91 followed soon afterwards; from the teams the news that Gouzeaucourt and Gonnellieu had fallen, was received: nothing had been heard of A/91 and D/91 teams; it afterwards turned out that they had been held up by an officer of

another unit at Villers Plouich and told that the batteries had all been over-run by the enemy. They sent scouts out, who discovered the 91st Brigade still in action, and came up at once. A/91 were withdrawn at 9 p.m. and D/91 at 10.30 p.m. Hardly any casualties were caused by the enemy's night firing which was scanty—in fact the German Field Gunners put up a very poor performance once the attack had started, and showed small thrusting powers.

By dawn on Dec. 1st the 91st Brigade were in action north of Beaucamp, and covering Welsh Ridge: the 62nd Division from Arras relieved the 20th Division and the 9th Division (who were on their way to Italy) relieved the 12th Division. It was a pity the 12th and 20th Divisions had not been relieved on Nov. 21st or 22nd, by which time they were exhausted.

The 9th and 62nd Divisions would have had a week to learn their sector; the British troops in Italy were not used to stem the Austrian offensive as it turned out, so the 9th Division would not have been useful in Italy for some time.

No gunners were relieved, as many guns had been lost.

The 91st Brigade received the following honours for this battle: 2 M.C.'s. (Capt. Swift, R.A.M.C. and Lieut. Ardagh B/91).

D.C.M. bar (B.S.M. Evans D/91) and about a dozen M.M.'s. to the drivers of the limbers.

Lieut. Ardagh was left in command of B/91, Major Buckley being on leave and Capt. Humphreys being wounded on Nov. 30th. Lieut. MacDonald of B/91 was killed at Beaucamp on Dec. 1st, but Lieut. Ardagh carried on alone for 48 hours.

Capt. Swift stayed with the guns until the last battery had gone, he followed behind it to pick up wounded if any; he was given permission to leave several times, but refused. After suffering further casualties the 91st Brigade were kept in the line until Dec. 12th by which time the Germans had taken La Vacquerie. Major Butchart left A/91, after commanding it for 2 years, to take command of an A.F.A. Brigade. Capt. Poer from No. 1 Section D.A.C. took command of A/91, Lieut. Hamilton taking command of No. 1 Section D.A.C.

Lieut. Scaife returned to England to complete his medical studies, 2nd Lieut. Hoare becoming Signal Officer at 91st Brigade Headquarters.

CHAPTER XIII.

TO YPRES AND BACK.

The 92nd Brigade and Nos. 2 and 3 Sections D.A.C. marched up to Robecq, being followed on Dec. 13th by the 91st Brigade and No. 1 Section D.A.C. It was a wretched march as the roads were ice-bound. Christmas found us at Robecq; it was a sad event as no mails had reached us for some time.

On Dec. 28th the D.A. marched through Bailleul and camped about 2 miles north of it in various reserve wagon-lines. An attempt to put us straight into the line was given up after serious representations of our need for rest to refit.

Our infantry came into the line about Jan. 5th 1918 holding the sector from Gheluvelt to the Ypres-Comines canal.

On Jan. 21st the 91st and 92nd Brigade relieved the 37th D.A. in this sector.

Lt.-Col. Ricardo, D.S.O. left the 92nd Brigade and was invalided home. Lt.-Col. Balston took over the Brigade.

On Feb. 18th the 37th D.A. relieved us and we marched to Morbecq near Hazebrouck. After a day or two we entrained for Nesles and marched to a reserve area east of Nesles near Esmery-Hallon, and about 3 to 5 miles west of Ham.

Training kept us busy as there were rumours of an early German offensive in this part of the line.

A very successful race meeting was held by the Division. 2nd Lieut. Hoare won the R.A. subaltern's race and Major Reynolds won the Hotham Cup, presented by our first C.R.A.

In the 2nd week of March 1918 all available officers went up to the St. Quentin sector and had a look at the front and at their battle gun positions.

There were several false alarms but at an early hour on March 21st a deafening bombardment started, Ham being shelled by H.V. guns. At noon we got orders to go up in support and started off, trotting the whole way. On arrival the batteries were split up under various group commanders of other divisions. Each unit therefore had different experiences. The 92nd Brigade remained for most of the retreat with the 20th Division Infantry and ended up at Moreuil on March 30th. The 91st Brigade less D/91 were with the 60th Infantry Brigade, 20th Division, most of the time, but ended up with the 14th D.A. near Noyon, behind the French Infantry.

D/91 was with the 36th D.A. from Grand Seraucourt to Lassigny, supporting the French 177th Division for some of the time. The 20th D.A. had minor losses in the retreat and lost no guns.

By April 4th the 91st Brigade were collected at Poix, refitting, and went into action behind Villers Bretonneux (held by the Australians) on April 7th.

The 92nd Brigade come in on the left of the 91st Brigade about 14th April. The enemy fired a lot of gas shells into Villers Bretonneux and the Bois l'Abbé for some days previous to April 24th: Lieut. Cunningham of D/91 and Lieut. Glossop of C/91 were both gassed in this way.

On April 23rd the 8th Division took over Villers Bretonneux: the 91st Brigade were promised relief on April 24th. That day the enemy captured Villers Bretonneux: this caused the Divisional Artillery to do some manœuvring; they occupied three or four positions but lost no guns: the 91st Brigade lost heavily. In the evening (at 10 p.m.) the Australians took back the village by an attack of which it is hard to speak too highly: the 91st Brigade were relieved that night and went up to a point rather more to the north.

The 92nd Brigade were pulled out of the line towards the end of

April and went out to rest; before long they were drawn into the fighting up north, Major Butcher of A/92 being killed.

The 91st Brigade had suffered very severely at Villers Bretonneux their casualties in one morning (April 24th) being as follows:—

Killed.

Major Poer A/91.

Lieut. Rayner C/91.

Wounded.

Major Earle D/91.

2nd Lieut. Wauhope D/91.

Lieut. Laing A/91.

and two other officers, whose names I have forgotten.

Major Price-Williams, M.C. of C/91 received the D.S.O. for his work in this battle.

Capt. Francis left the Division, invalided, and was replaced as Staff Captain by Capt. Robertson.

In May the 20th Division was re-united in the Lens sector. About this time Major Laing C/92 went sick and Major Reynolds B/92 returned to England to resume the dental profession: this entailed many changes, the batteries being commanded as below:—

A/91—Major Baker, Capt. Grayburn.

B/91—Major Buckley, M.C., Capt. Humphreys, M.C.

C/91—Major Price-Williams, D.S.O., M.C., Capt. Wartnaby.

D/91—Major Gwyn, M.C., Capt. Prothero, M.C.

A/92—Major Player.

B/92—Major Belcher, Capt. Pickard.

C/92—Major Currie.

D/92—Major Holland, Capt. Hallinan.

Unfortunately Major Belcher, one of the oldest members of the Division, was killed near Vimy Ridge in May and his place was taken by Major Prothero from D/91.

Major Player went sick shortly afterwards, his place being taken by Capt. Pickard.

The next loss was Capt. Humphreys of B/91 who went sick in June: this officer was a martyr to asthma, and those who served with him could not but admire the wonderful way in which he carried on.

In May Major Cunningham went on the Cambridge Staff Course afterwards becoming G.S.O. 2 of the 63rd Division: while he was on this course his place was taken by Major Price-Williams, temporarily, and afterwards Major Collins became Bde. Major and Major Price Williams returned to C/91.

In June the Birthday Honours included Lt.-Col. Balston, D.S.O. Capt. Bertie, Capt. Younghusband and Capt. Pickard—M.C's.

In Sept. Lt.-Col. Erskine left the 91st Brigade to take over the 3rd Army Artillery School—his place being taken by Lt.-Col. Allcard.

CHAPTER XIV.

THE CLOSING STAGES.

The Divisional Artillery were at Lens for a long time and followed the Germans when they retreated from that sector in Sept. 1918. In Nov. the Divisional Artillery went round to the area N. of Le Cateau in support of the Guards Division and took part in the advance to Maubeuge, which place had just been taken when the Armistice was signed. Between Nov. 5th and 11th the D.A. advanced 36,000 yards. Major Gwyn of D/91 was wounded during this advance and his place was taken by Capt. Younghusband; Lieut. Glossop who had returned to C/91 becoming Adjt. 91st Brigade.

After the Armistice C/91 and D/91 went to Col. Erskine's school as dépôt batteries, the remainder of the D.A. being broken up.

The New Years Honours 1919 included—

Brig.-Genl. Christie, C.B.

Major A. G. Cunningham, D.S.O.

Lt.-Col. Foster, D.S.O.

Lieut. Glen, M.C.

Before closing this History it seems worth while to give a list of those officers who served longest with the 20th D.A.

Lt.-Col. Foster, D.S.O. commanded D.A.C. Dec. 1914—Nov. 1918.

Lieut. G. Tate, served with A/90 and B/91 Oct. 1914—Nov. 1918.

Major Younghusband, M.C., served with C/93, A/93, 91st Bde. H.Q. as Adjt. and commanded D/91 from Jan. 1915—Nov. 1918.

Captain Codner, was in D/93 Oct. 1914 to Nov. 1915 and in the D.A.C. Nov. 1915—Nov. 1918.

Capt. Grayburn, served with D/93 and A/91, Jan. 1915—Nov. 1918.

Capt. MacDonald, served with A/91 and D.A.C., Nov. 1914—Nov. 1918.

Capt. Denman, M.C., served with A/93, 93rd Bde. H.Q. as Adjt. and H. Q., D.A.C. as Adjt. Nov. 1914—Nov. 1918.

Major Buckley, M.C., served with C/92, 91st B.A.C., R.A. Trench Mortars as D.T.M.O. and commanded B/91 Oct. 1914—Nov. 1918.

Lieut. Gulliver, served with A/93, 93rd B.A.C. and D.A.C. Nov. 1914—Nov. 1918.

This completes the List of officers who served continuously with the D.A. while it was in England and France as far as I can remember.

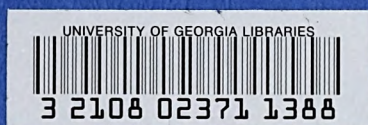
That the last chapters are very sketchy I am aware, but I was not with the Division the last six months of the war and had to rely on hearsay for facts in connection with that period. While still collecting matter I was sent on service to Afghanistan, so my efforts to fill in the gaps in this History had to be abandoned.



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